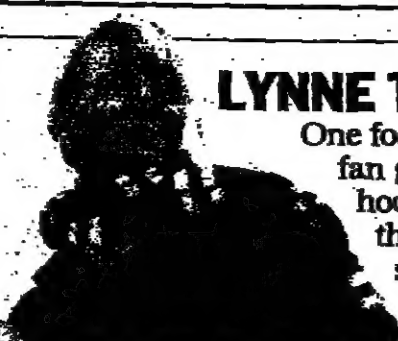




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IN TOMORROW'S WEEKEND  
Sandra Parsons meets  
Alistair McAlpine

Labour abandons confidence vote

## Ulster deal to protect Major until May 1

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLLY NEWTON AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE Ulster Unionists threw John Major the lifeline that should keep him in power until May 1 yesterday after the Government agreed to increase the powers of the special parliamentary committee that monitors Northern Ireland.

The deal was announced by the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, who made clear that he saw no point in trying to force an early election. He added that his personal preference was for a late contest.

Labour cannot force the Government out of office without Unionist backing, so it abandoned thoughts of staging a Commons confidence vote next week, fearing that it would merely give the Government a chance to rally and regroup after yesterday's Writal South by-election.

Donald Dewar, the Chief Whip, said: "I am sorry we cannot go ahead. I would like to have gone ahead, but there is no point in putting down a motion without the Ulster Unionists."

Mr Trimble did not rule out voting against the Government when he announced the grand committee deal yesterday, but the tone of his remarks fitted in with his privately-held view that his party had nothing to gain by doing so. Senior Unionists believe that the next Government, of whatever hue, would distrust a minor party that was prepared to side with the Opposition on such a crucial vote.

Mr Trimble was dismissive

### Jury trial curbs

Michael Howard has proposed curbs on the right to trial by jury and other substantial changes to the criminal justice system. Thousands of offenders, including burglars and some sex offenders, would be likely to receive lighter sentences. Page 4

of the prospects of an early election. "What is the point for a couple of weeks? If you have an early election, you would have Easter in the middle of the campaign. I can see arguments pro and con, possibly more on than pro. What is the point of them [Labour] putting a 'big effort' in when all the difference is three weeks?" He was not even sure that Labour was in a position to get all its MPs to Westminster to a vote aimed at bringing down the Government.

And he added that for "selfish, personal reasons" he would prefer a May 1 poll, as he was hoping to spend St Patrick's Day in America.

Unionists were delighted that ministers had not many of their demands for new powers for Northern Ireland Grand Committee in line with those in Wales and Scotland.

The powers, promised by Mr Major last October, were agreed after extensive consultation and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, has written to each of the party leaders in Northern Ireland setting out the details of the new look

committee. All Northern Ireland MPs and up to 24 other MPs will serve on the committee, which will be able to question ministers on Province spending commitments announced in the Budget, interrogate all ministers about Northern Ireland affairs, and stage some meetings in Northern Ireland as well as Westminster. It will also be able to consider uncontested legislation affecting the Province.

However, nationalists have objected to such powers being conferred on the committee, seeing it as part of an integrationist agenda.

The Government's decision to beef up the committee came as ministers prepared to accede to Northern Ireland politicians' calls for the Stormont talks to be adjourned for the duration of the election campaign. The talks, which have failed to make any real progress since they opened last June, will be wound up next Wednesday until after the local government elections in Northern Ireland on May 21.

Mr Trimble said that other government moves — ranging from pressure on Brussels to lift the beef ban on specified BSE-free herds, to bringing the Province in line with the rest of the country on "de-rating" village shops — were also important developments.

However, he denied that the Unionist votes had effectively been "bought" by the Government. "I don't see these positive things as buying us. I regard them as things that ought to have happened anyway."



Support for Ben Chapman, the Writal South Labour candidate, from his daughter Bridget, during yesterday's by-election

## Tebbit lambasts 'tacky' Heseltine

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

MICHAEL HESELTINE has been accused by his former Cabinet colleague Lord Tebbit of conduct that is "tasteless, tacky if not dishonourable, and self-centered beyond even the call of his profession".

In a withering attack on the Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Tebbit, once Tory party chairman, cites as an example the way Mr Heseltine tried to avoid National Service. He writes in a review of a new

Heseltine biography: "It is hard totally to condemn anyone knowing that National Service was coming to an end for seeking to escape completely. Having tried and failed to do that, to go on to escape from the Army by standing for Parliament in a hopelessly safe Labour seat is a more dubious, but still forgivable, play."

But it jars the nerves that after just 61 days' service as a second lieutenant Heseltine

wears his Guards tie as though he had served his regiment, not legally deserted it."

Mr Heseltine began his National Service in January 1959, when 25. A month after arriving, he was selected as Conservative candidate for the safe Labour seat of Gower in South Wales. In September 1959, when the election was called, he was allowed to resign from the Army under rules which prevented parlia-

mentary candidates from remaining in military service.

He had completed a third of the expected period of National Service and spent 61 days with the Welsh Guards. Three years later the rules were changed after a rash of applications by servicemen to stand for Parliament.

Lord Tebbit says in a review in *The Spectator* of Michael Crick's biography, *Michael*

## Law comes into play as judge overrules rugby ban

By FRANCES GIBB AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

A RUGBY union star who challenged his suspension from the game yesterday won a High Court ruling that opens the way to similar actions against sporting bodies whose decisions affect players' livelihoods.

Mark Jones, a Welsh player who was sent off for fighting during a game against Swansea, won a ruling that he should not be suspended for four weeks pending his appeal.

In a decision which lawyers said marked the new professional climate of the game, Mrs Justice Ebsworth granted an injunction allowing Jones back on the field until an appeal over a disciplinary committee's decision is heard.

Jones, Ebbw Vale's No 8, said that his four-week suspension by the Welsh Rugby Union's disciplinary committee was unfair because he did not have a sufficient chance to put his side of the case.

The player is paid £29,000 a year, can earn bonuses of £10,000 for winning key games, and was "a vital member of the side". He can now continue playing until an appeal is completed, whether by an internal hearing or — if that fails — at a full High Court trial.

Mrs Justice Ebsworth said that sporting decisions had for years been made from "wet and windy" touchlines. But the new professional game meant that those decisions now affected "many people who earn a living".

She said it was "naïve" to contend — as it had been until recently — that the decisions of disciplinary committees could not be challenged, because the sanctions imposed now had "economic results" on those affected. The judge said that the lawyer representing Jones

Continued on page 2, col 5

### Santor joins the cloning debate

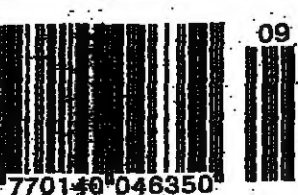
The President of the European Commission has asked his aides to investigate whether there was a need for cloning by EU states to regulate geneticists in the light of the successful cloning of a sheep carried out by British scientists. Jacques Santer has asked experts to produce a report on the ethical questions that arose. Page 2

### Sacked Clinton aide spills beans

The disclosures about President Clinton's eagerness to reward big campaign contributors with overnight stays in the Lincoln bedroom and other White House perks came from Harold Ickes, the President's former deputy chief of staff, who was dismissed last year. Page 12

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### The Queen goes into cyberspace

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE QUEEN, who prides herself on being a thoroughly modern monarch, is about to make one of the great technological leaps of her reign by having her own web site on the Internet.

From next Thursday, 35 million computer users around the world who are plugged into the global information network will be able to access 150 pages of royal facts, from the monarch's date of birth to the opening times of Buckingham Palace.

A Palace spokeswoman said yesterday: "We don't sit here with quill pens, you know; we are already highly computerised. The Internet can play a very important part in our public information role. The site's address is being kept secret until the Queen inaugurates the service next week at



"I declare this web site open — whoops"

Kingsbury School, Brent, north London.

Callers at the site will be able to find copious notes on royal history, finances, biographies of current family members and much more.

But there will be no items of gossip or personal information, such as whether the Queen's new television racing service has brought her more winners or where the Duchess of York will be taking her next foreign holiday.

## Diane Blood wins right to have dead husband's baby

By EMMA WILKINS

DIANE BLOOD was celebrating with champagne yesterday after winning the right to take her late husband's sperm abroad for fertility treatment.

Mrs Blood, who had been fighting for the right to bear her husband Stephen's child for two years, said she was relieved, elated and jubilant.

Her celebrations came after the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which last year banned her from treatment in Britain and abroad, decided to make an exception in her case. The Authority ruled that Mrs Blood may export Stephen's sperm provided she attends a fertility clinic in Brussels for treatment.

Mrs Blood, 30, said: "It's wonderful news and I still can't quite believe it. I'm sure

Stephen would be very proud and happy."

The legal battle, which took Mrs Blood to the High Court in London and the Court of Appeal, had been arduous but worthwhile, she said.

Mrs Blood's campaign began two years ago when Stephen contracted bacterial meningitis and fell into a coma in February 1995. He died before he could sign a consent form vital under HFEA rules regulating fertility treatment.

The Court of Appeal ruled three weeks ago that the Authority was wrong not to take proper account of European law, which gives every European citizen the right to receive medical services in another member state unless there are overriding public policy reasons against it.

Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, sitting with two other Appeal Court judges, referred Mrs Blood's case back to the Authority for reconsideration.

However, Mrs Blood's troubles are not over yet. The Belgian clinic where it is understood she hopes to use her husband's sperm to conceive could still turn down her request.

Dr Paul De Vroey, clinical director of the Centre for Reproductive Medicine at the Brussels Free University, said yesterday that if a request was received from Ms Blood, she would be interviewed and would receive counselling. Her treatment would then be considered by the clinical and the ethics committee.

Photograph, page 22

## Israeli President a boy with a new toy on RAF visit

By ALAN HAMILTON

EVEN if you are a 72-year-old head of state, once bitten by the flying bug, you cannot leave planes alone, and especially if you helped to found and once commanded your country's air force.

President Weizman of Israel joined the RAF in Egypt in 1942. Yesterday he returned to RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire as a guest which, without intending any slight to the Queen's

hospitality, he described as the pinnacle of his three-day visit to Britain.

When he squeezed into the cockpit of a Red Arrows Hawk trainer, his smile was that of a boy with a new toy as Squadron Leader Simon Meade described the controls — rather more complex than those of the Spitfires he flew in wartime India. He still occasionally flies a helicopter. "It may not be an F16, but to fly low at 130mph is a thrill for an old-timer," he said.

Asked what he thought of the

present-day RAF, Mr Weizman said: "I saw the performances in the Gulf: they are excellent. It is a problem for both the RAF and the Israeli Air Force — how to be small but very good."

There are, however, important differences. The RAF now has women flying combat aircraft, and last year selected six more for pilot training. During his command of the Israeli Air Force, Mr Weizman resisted every pressure to put women in the cockpit. Last year, for the first time, the Israelis

accepted six for pilot training. All of them failed.

Clearly, for Mr Weizman, flying is a man's occupation. During his visit to Cranwell yesterday he reminisced with senior officers about his RAF days, but he did not mention that, when courting Reuma, his London-born wife, he supposedly flew his Spitfire over her tennis court and bombarded it with red roses.

Dogfight renewed, page 3

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## Mr Ashdown winks and everything falls into place again

Is Michael Brown (C. Briggs & Clethorpes) losing his bottle? Once in tune with the splendidly robust mood of today's Tory party, Mr Brown has gone all wistful and sentimental. Hard-nosed Home Secretary Michael Howard heard Brown complain to the PM yesterday about "stowaways, who have been arriving, unfortunately, dead, in small ships, at Felixstowe". They had travelled "in dreadful conditions. Though they are illegal immigrants they are

arriving, as I say, dead, and something ought to be done about it."

"Unfortunately" dead, Mr Brown? Illegal immigrants unfortunately dead? Get a grip on yourself, man. Have a drink with Michael Howard. He'll sort you out.

To miss the key to Prime Minister's Questions yesterday was to miss all: like someone with a coded message but no code. And if your attention had slipped, you would have missed it. It lasted half a second.

To that key in a moment. First let us set the scene. The Opposition were indignant about Gulf War syndrome, the alleged ministry cover-up, and medical provision for British troops. Neil Gerrard (Lab, Walthamstow) was first. Why were Tory ministers refusing to take personal responsibility for mistakes over organophosphates? People had died. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, was (was he not?) "without honour". Opposition backbenchers howled their agreement. Strong stuff, Tony



POLITICAL SKETCH

Blair opened up a second front of moral outrage. A Defence Select Committee report had judged medical provision for our troops cruelly deficient, said the Labour leader. "Which minister will take responsibility?" How could the Prime Minister delay comment or action on this? When would we have his response?

Opposition backbenchers shouted: "Answer! Answer!" Paddy Ashdown returned to the original charge. How dare Mr Major call the Gulf War syndrome "an ailment"? Did he not realise that this was a terrible illness? At his best (as he was yesterday) the Liberal Democrat leader is most effective at communicating a cer-

tain terse conviction. His voice rings with authority and sincerity. He knows. He cares. Liberal Democrats led the opposition benches in a further cheer of support and anger.

Through all this, John Major seemed unsettled and cross. Perhaps he had early intimations of a bad result from the Warral by-election; perhaps he felt defensive or concerned about organophosphates. Whatever it was, Mr Major was not having a good afternoon. By contrast, Mr Ashdown now reinforced an

impression, conveyed equally by Mr Blair and his backbenchers, of principled outrage. Eyes blazing he sat down. The cameras moved off him.

Then he winked. I missed it but two colleagues and a friend in the Gallery report the same. Paddy Ashdown winked towards Labour's Chief Whip, Donald Dewar.

A wink can say all manner of things. It can say "Cotchas that skewered him". It can say "nice pincer move" by your man and me eh?" It can say

"that was for the cameras, mate". Nod-nod, wink-wink. Which if any of these things Mr Ashdown's wink was meant to imply, or to whom, we cannot know but of this we can be sure: that if you do not catch the wink in Commons life, you will never really understand the British Parliament. The whole chamber winks. The Mace winks. Every stone, every policeman, every bewigged clerk and carved gargoyles, every portrait of bygone statesmen, winks, here at Westminster.

## Santer orders EU investigation into ethics of cloning

By NIGEL HAWKES AND CHARLES BREMMER

JACQUES SANTER, president of the European Commission, joined the debate over Dolly, the cloned sheep, yesterday. He asked EC officials to investigate whether there was a need for joint action by the 15 EU states to regulate genetics and asked the Commission's biotechnology advisory group of independent experts to produce a report on the "fundamental ethical questions".

Commission officials said an EU ban already existed on the cloning of humans, but until now Brussels has not tried to regulate other forms of genetic manipulation, and is not even certain it has the authority to do so.

Mr Santer said: "The Commission will be examining the whole question in the light of the results of these initiatives, to see if the Commission has any specific competence in this area."

London at its first meeting, a new government advisory body, the Human Genetics Advisory Commission, discussed whether the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, which bans human cloning, is sufficiently explicit. The law was written, before the new technique used to create Dolly had been devised.

Sir Colin Campbell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham and chairman of the advisory commission, is to write to his opposite number at the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority "to confirm the adequacy of the existing law".

The 1990 Act bans cloning by the technique called nuclear transfer, in which the nucleus of an embryo is replaced by one from another cell or embryo. But the use of adult cells was not then contemplated.

Baroness Warnock, whose committee recommended the law, believes an amendment may be needed.

"We didn't know about cloning from adult cells, and the act probably now needs to be amended to outlaw all human cloning," she has said.

In an interview with BBC Radio, Sir Colin said: "Above all we ought to tell the truth and say where there are wonderful promises and excitement and contributions to health care, but also where there are terrible dangers. We have to be objective and balanced and point out the good things and the bad things, and then listen to what the public says."

"Science in this country and in every other country will not stop... But with the power of global communication new scientific advances carried out in an unregulated country will be known to us within moments."

Some of the strongest opinions have been expressed in Germany, where one Socialist MEP, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, has called for a moratorium on cloning while a global ethical inquiry is carried out. She said the World Trade Organisation should undertake it.

But Guy Paillet, president of the French National Institute for Agricultural Research, a state-funded agency, said news of the experiment was "whipping up panic" by raising the prospect that similar experiments could be performed on humans.

M. Paillet said that real scientific issues were already being sidetracked by "stupid" talk of mad scientists cloning humans. He said: "Everyone thinks that it will be used to clone a human... We must say very loudly that this is out of the question, that this is stupid."



Michael Heseltine, left, the subject of Lord Tebbit's scathing attack yesterday

## Tebbit lambasts Heseltine

Continued from page 1

Heseltine, that the only thing for which he will be remembered is "the political rigidity which brought down our greatest post-war Prime Minister".

He adds of Mr Heseltine, who prompted the Tory leadership fight that ended Baroness (then Margaret) Thatcher's premiership in 1990: "At the roots of his hostility to her is a macho streak which sees only a subservient role for women, however talented, and a resentment that a woman achieved the supreme office which he coveted and which was denied him."

Lord Tebbit says Mr Heseltine, as an adolescent, became "a political missile" targeted on the office of prime minister. "In his political career Heseltine seems not to have wanted friends but actively used acolytes until their usefulness waned and they were dropped."

But, of Mr Crick, the biographer, he says: "He scarcely understands why someone like me set personal ambition aside to step him. Heseltine's laser-guided system can focus on only one target at a time. He is a supremely good one-ball juggler, but a prime minister must keep a dozen or more balls in the air — and that he could not do."

Lord Tebbit says Mr Heseltine was responsible for bungling privatisation, the Post Office and the coal industry, was "lacklustre" at the Department of the Environment, and "let the Nimrod project run out of control" when

## Water being sold too cheap, ministers told

Water companies and consumers should pay more for water if Britain is to conserve supplies, save rivers and protect wildlife into the next century, government advisers say. In a report to ministers, the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development also calls on government to take a more active and traditional role in planning water resources. It says that a national strategy balancing the needs of consumers, the environment and the water industry is urgently needed and that only government can take on such a strategic role.

The advisers, drawn from academia, industry and environmental groups, say the importance of water is not being reflected in its cost and recommend more widespread use of metering to encourage homes and industry to use water supplies more wisely.

## Runcie call over Europe

Lord Runcie appealed last night for an end to "quarrelling, selfish factions" in the debate over Europe and a renewed recognition of European identity. The former Archbishop of Canterbury was giving a lecture at the Cambridge University divinity school to commemorate the fourteenth century of St Augustine's arrival and his mission to convert England. He said: "A glance at Canterbury's history betrays any sense of insularity when we see what those from abroad have contributed to it."

## E. coli butcher reopens

The Scottish town hit by the world's second worst *E. coli* 0157 food poisoning epidemic braved freezing winter drizzle to welcome their favourite butcher back in business yesterday. In a show of loyalty and affection customers turned out in droves to buy pies, cooked meat and prime cuts from John M. Barr & Son, of Wishaw, Lanarkshire, the butcher thought to be the source of the outbreak that killed 18 people in central Scotland last year. His first customer was David Goodwin, 22, a trainee microbiologist.

## Forces' medical 'crisis'

Britain no longer has enough medical teams to treat wounded soldiers in war because of excessive cuts, MPs on the Defence Select Committee said yesterday. Staff shortages in the Defence Medical Services were so serious that the MPs doubted whether "it will ever recover". With the closure of three military hospitals and service medics now working in special units in civilian hospitals, it was possible, the MPs said, that the military ethos of medicine in the regular Armed Forces had been destroyed.

## Major defends Soames

The Prime Minister was urged in the Commons yesterday to agree to compensation for former service personnel suffering from so-called Gulf War syndrome. John Major defended Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, in the face of Labour demands for his resignation over the matter, and told MPs that compensation could not be paid until the cause of the illnesses had been resolved. Although no Gulf War veteran has yet sued the Ministry of Defence, more than 1,200 have indicated their intention to do so.

## Princess faces tribunal

Diana, Princess of Wales, may be asked to give evidence at an industrial tribunal next week over the dismissal of the housemaid Sylvia McDermott (right). Ms McDermott, 43, who worked at Kensington Palace from 1987 until last November, is demanding reinstatement. Her lawyers said that if the Princess refused, they might serve a witness statement requiring her to attend the hearing in Croydon on Wednesday. They said: "The lawyers for Diana, Princess of Wales have conceded that the dismissal was unfair, but her request for re-employment has been refused." Ms McDermott, who earned £9,000 a year, is said to have turned down an offer of £5,500 to settle out of court.



## More support abortion

A woman's right to choose an abortion is supported by an increasing number of Britons, including half of Roman Catholics, according to a MORI poll. Growing numbers of people, however, are rejecting the idea of terminating a pregnancy on the grounds that the child would be mentally or physically handicapped. MORI began questioning 1,943 adults on the day that the Pro-life Alliance party announced it would field 50 candidates at the General Election demanding an end to all abortions, except to save a life.

## We may be alone again

Two astronomers from the University of Geneva who found a planet orbiting around a distant star were mistaken, a professor has claimed. The discovery 16 months ago was the first evidence that stars other than the Sun have planets, and increased the chance of life elsewhere in the universe. But David Gray of the University of Western Ontario says in *Nature* that natural variations in the star explain "wobbles" in its image that the astronomers identified as being caused by a massive planet orbiting close to the star.



Jones: unfair hearing

## Rugby ban

Continued from page 1

had argued that the disciplinary hearing was unfair because there was no proper inquiry into the facts; he had no legal representation; the video was viewed in private, and the committee did not have an open mind when it reached its decision, which imposed a sanction of "unreasonable length".

She said the disciplinary proceedings gave the player no real rights and that the committee exercised powers and gave decisions which affect the livelihood of the players.

MPs and others gave a warning that the ruling could damage British sport, opening the floodgates for a host of similar claims. And lawyers agreed that the ruling undermined the changed climate in which courts increasingly would be asked to intervene in sports through a variety of legal challenges, including personal injury claims.

Jones, a 16-stone forward, said: "The referee is never wrong and I have not challenged his decision in any way whatsoever... The issue was how the disciplinary hearing was then conducted — of there being no representation; no right of appeal. I am ecstatic. I am delighted with the judgment."

## Stowaway deaths inquiry promised

By ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR has promised an investigation into the deaths of seven illegal immigrants who stowed away on ships bound for Britain.

The bodies were found at two ports on the Humber, in the holds of vessels that had set sail for Europe from Africa with cargoes of copper. Two bodies were discovered last week in the hold of the Danish registered *Jenna Monk*, which berthed at New Holland. In the past six months, five bodies have been found in boats calling at Immingham and New Holland. They were all African men.

Police inquiries have failed to disclose why the problem, new to the Humber ports, has suddenly arisen. Inquests cannot be held until the bodies have been identified, which could prove impossible.

Paperwork discovered on the boats shows only one common link: that the ships all called at the port of Abidjan on the Ivory Coast. The men are thought to have died from dehydration in the sealed hold of the boats or from the effects of pesticide used to kill maggots.

The problem was raised at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday by Michael Brown, MP for Briggs and Clethorpes, who told Mr Major: "Although they are illegal immigrants, they are arriving dead, and something needs to be done about it."

Mr Major said that the matter would be looked into by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary.

## MPs admonish aid agency

THE Overseas Development Administration was rebuked by MPs last night for failing to make adequate checks on British firms that received grants to assist overseas aid projects (Valerie Ellison writes).

Potential conflict was exposed after scrutiny of a £23.36 million grant to a

£66.75 million joint project by the Turkish Higher Education Council and a British company, TecQuipment.

A report by the Commons Public Accounts Committee yesterday showed that TecQuipment had many overlapping roles in the project, including evaluation of tenders. The firm had given business worth £10 million to Fisons, which had provided it with a bank guarantee.

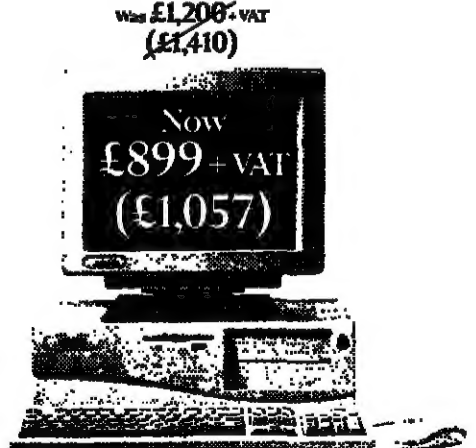
The MPs said: "We are disturbed that lessons such as these had still to be learnt by a government department with so much experience in administering aid projects."

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# RAF veteran renews dogfight with Israeli President



President Weizman, left, and in the Spitfire he was flying when he fired on RAF pilot Douglas Liqueorish, pictured right in a Spitfire, after the Israeli mistook his plane for an Egyptian aircraft. Mr Liqueorish said he bore no animosity

## 'He was very sneaky — but he did not shoot me down as he claimed'

DOUGLAS LIQUEORISH is not sure if the RAF excluded him from their welcoming party for Ezer Weizman yesterday in case the two might have carried on their scrap from nearly 50 years ago.

**Daniel McGrory meets a man with vivid memories of a deadly aerial duel over the Israeli desert almost 50 years ago**

They clashed in a dogfight over the Israeli desert in 1949 and have never met since, which disappoints 72-year-old Mr Liqueorish as he wishes the President of Israel to know he bears him no animosity for crippling his Tempest fighter plane and giving him the fright of his life.

It was a peace on January 7, 1949, the day of an agreed ceasefire between Egypt and Israel, when four RAF Spitfires were ordered to patrol the disputed border to monitor troop movements and protect British military bases in Egypt. All four were shot down by Israeli ground fire or

its Spitfires; one pilot was dead and three were still missing when Mr Liqueorish and the others of 6 Squadron were scrambled from their base at Deversoir in the early afternoon.

second later I felt the bullets tearing into my plane with one ending up buried in the seat armour right behind my head. That was my first time in combat. He still has the shell and would be delighted to return it to its rightful owner.

Mr Liqueorish does not take issue with President Weizman's account that the Israeli Spitfires, even though his Tempest was half as big again and more bulbous than a Spitfire.

Another survivor from that encounter, Flight Lieutenant Brian Spragg, DFC, told yesterday how he was first to retaliate, firing on Weizman, damaging his Spitfire and forcing the Israeli into swift retreat. "If my aim had been better, by about two feet to the left, President Weizman would not be a guest of Her Majesty this week," Mr Spragg said.

## Spitfire sell-off challenged

THE sale of a salvaged Spitfire to an American collector has been challenged.

That plane belongs to me. The Spitfire crashed into mudflats on the Humber near Mr Woollass's home in Swineshead, North Lincolnshire, on September 9, 1944. He says that his salvage claim was accepted by the Air Ministry in 1960. But in 1983 Stephen Arnold and Julian Mitchell, the eventual sellers, dug it out of the mud and started a 13-year restoration

project at their homes in Kidlington, Oxfordshire. John Foster, Mr Woollass's solicitor, said: "Because of the age of Mr Woollass's claim the salvage work was probably undertaken in complete ignorance that he had previously been given permission."



Mr Liqueorish displays his pilot's log, and President Weizman on a visit to RAF Cranwell yesterday

tussle with a Yiddish Spit". Mr Liqueorish does take exception to President Weizman's claim in his autobiography, *On Eagles' Wings*, that he downed the RAF plane at Al-Arish. "I steered that old crate home with one wing hanging off, it was bleeding oil and I didn't know if the hydraulics would work but I landed back at our own base, albeit somewhat clumsily." It

was not until the early 1980s and military records were released Mr Liqueorish realised who his attacker was. His former Squadron Leader, later to become Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling, did meet President Weizman at a function. "He telephoned me and said, 'You were always a hot-tempered sort, Doug, so I had better not invite you in case you land one

on his chin'." Mr Liqueorish said. His home in Norfolk is decorated with photographs and an oil painting of his Tempest, the *Lady Jane*, named after his then girlfriend. His wife, Beryl, was not forgiving: "I know Doug is keen to meet President Weizman but I still think I might punch him."

Her husband chastened her: "All is fair in love and war. We were both as mad as hatters in those days — you had to be to fly planes like that. You did not think about the man in the cockpit, you just saw the plane and your only thought was to disable it, bring it down, not kill the fellow at the controls."

## Treasurer jailed for golf club fraud

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE treasurer of one of the country's oldest golf clubs has been jailed after he embezzled more than £120,000 earmarked for improvements to the green and clubhouse.

Alan Craddock, 46, a former senior official with Barclays Bank, earned £25,000 a year but ran two cars, one a high-powered Saab with a personalised numberplate.

## Ex-college head is asked about missing artworks

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE former principal of a university college is to be questioned over missing works of art and furniture.



Arnold: resigned over bogus qualifications

tempting to convert the entrance hall of his lodgings near the Norman Cathedral into a replica of the Oval Office in the White House.

## Two win Hoover damages

BY ADAM FRESCO

TWO customers who lost out in the Hoover free flights fiasco were awarded damages yesterday in a move that could lead to thousands of other claims against the company.

## Father suspected son over murder

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A SOLICITOR who became suspicious that his teenage son had been involved in the murder of one homosexual and an attack on another forced him to confess his role, a court was told yesterday.

Michael Bowmes, senior solicitor with Plymouth council, said he first began worrying about his son, Richard, when he realised he had done a load of washing in the middle of the night and did not get up to go to college. He had heard about the killing of Frederick Sweet, 64, and the attack on Bernard Hawken, 53, in Central Park, Plymouth, on the news and had slowly come to realise that his son was involved.

### ON MOTHER'S DAY MAKE YOUR MUM FEEL EXCEPTIONAL.

Annette Edwards, 45, with eight of her ten children, attributes her youthfulness to the NIVEA Visage facecare range. Whether your mother has one child or ten, she's still a special mum. Make her feel exceptional with a gift of NIVEA Visage on Mother's Day, Sunday March 9th.

مركزاً من راصيل



Home Secretary heads for confrontation with judges and lawyers over proposals for swifter justice

# Howard sets out plans to curb right to trial by jury

By RICHARD FORD AND FRANCES GIBB

MICHAEL HOWARD yesterday embarked on another confrontation with the legal profession by proposing curbs on the right to trial by jury and other substantial changes to the criminal justice system.

Thousands of offenders, including burglars and some sex offenders, would be likely to receive lighter sentences as a result of proposals for more cases to be dealt with by magistrates rather than the Crown Court. Seventeen-year-olds would be dealt with in adult rather than the youth courts and the Crown Prosecution Service would lose its power to discontinue cases on grounds that it would not be in public interest to prosecute.

A defendant pleading guilty could get free advice from a duty solicitor at court in the hope that they would be dealt with the day after being charged. Anyone seeking a delay because they could not get their own lawyer would be forced to use the duty solicitor.

Mr Howard published 33 detailed proposals in a report by a civil servant, saying that they would speed up the process of justice and reduce costs by £55 million. Fourteen of the measures would require legislation and all must now go out to consultation.

The Conservatives cannot introduce the proposals before the general election. If Labour

## THE MAIN POINTS

Automatic right to elect jury trial withdrawn in range of cases, including assault, causing actual bodily harm, many indecency charges, theft and burglaries.

Offenders aged 17 to be dealt with by adult rather than youth courts.

CPS loses right to discontinue cases on public-interest grounds.

CPS staff to work from police stations to deal quickly with guilty pleas.

Stipendiary magistrates to sit alone in youth courts, particularly in complex cases.

Lay staff in CPS offices should be able to review case files, and non-lawyers employed by CPS should present uncontested cases in magistrates' courts.



Howard: quicker justice

Clerks to justices to manage pretrial preparation of all cases.

Youth court should administer cautions when an offence is admitted.

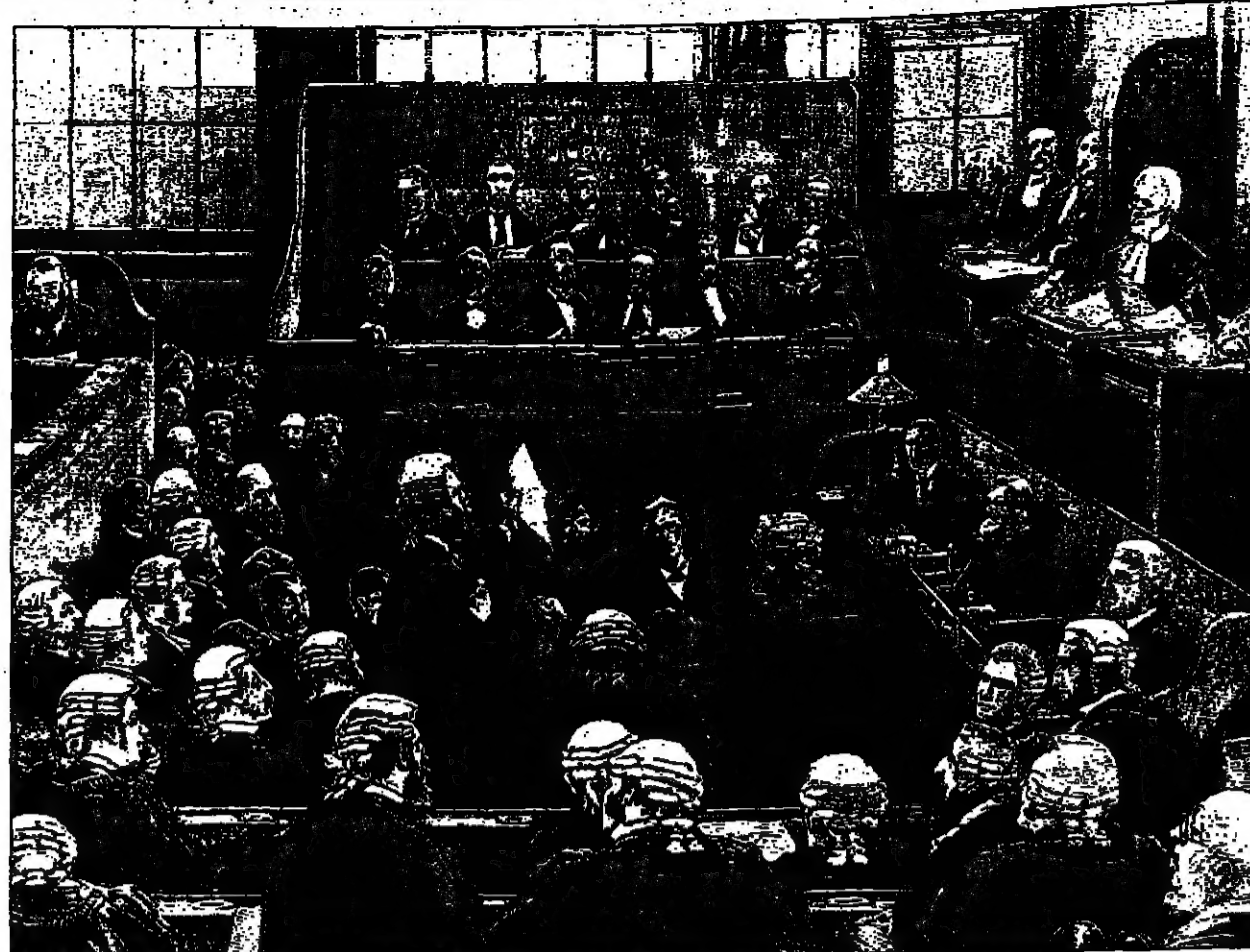
would result in 18,000 cases being heard by magistrates rather than in Crown Court, the report estimates. It could also lead to lighter sentences; the average jail term meted out by a magistrates' court is 2.8 months compared with 22 months in the Crown Court.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, told the Commons that Labour welcomed many of the recommendations, particularly reducing the age of adulthood in the courts from 18 to 17. But, he said, any erosion of the right to jury trials would be wrong. "If a police officer or an MP or even the Secretary of State was charged with an offence of dishonesty, would they not insist on being tried by a jury?" he asked. "If that is the case, why should others be denied this right of election?"

Some senior judges have strong reservations about any erosion of trial by jury and over proposals to strengthen the role of the Crown Prosecution Service in police stations.

Magistrates welcomed many of the proposals to reduce delays but said that rather than the right to elect jury trial being curbed, they favoured offences being reclassified so that some could be tried only by magistrates. The Magistrates' Association also attacked the proposal that justices' clerks or court clerks should decide matters such as the trial venue.

The Bar Council con-



A jury at the Central Criminal Court as depicted more than a century ago. The system goes back to Magna Carta

demned the proposal on jury trial. Robert Owen, QC, the Bar chairman, said the proposals would have to be carefully considered but that "we do not believe that the interests of justice should ever be subordinated to the demands of administrative convenience". The proposal to remove the right of defendants to elect trial by jury would mean thousands of people losing the right to be tried by an ordinary

jury of men and women, he added.

The Crown Court was "delivering justice daily in thousands of cases which attract no publicity at all — and it is doing it as swiftly as is consistent with doing justice to accuser and accused alike". It would also compound delays in magistrates' courts.

The Law Society strongly opposed the proposal, questioning the need for the Gov-

ernment to consider changing "such a fundamental right when it affects only a relatively small number of cases".

The right of defendants to opt for jury trial only results in a jury trial in about one in 200 cases. Of the cases committed to the Crown Court, only one in four reach there because of the defendant's choice. Robert Roscoe, of the society's criminal law committee, said that the interests of bureaucracy

should not come before the interests of justice.

Research done for the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice showed that 27 per cent of those electing trial intended from the outset to plead guilty. By the day of the trial, 83 per cent had pleaded guilty to some or all charges. Half those electing trial at the Crown Court believed that it would mean a lighter sentence, but this was mistaken.

## Twelve good men and true are historic pillar of law

Frances Gibb, legal correspondent, looks at the history of the jury system, once called "the lamp that shows that freedom lives"

TRIAL by jury is regarded as a pillar of the English justice system, dating back at least to the 13th century and Magna Carta. But the right to elect jury trial instead of appearing before magistrates for certain offences has existed only for just over 100 years. In Scotland it does not exist: the prosecutor decides on the venue of trial.

Repeated attempts since the 1970s to curb jury trials have failed in the face of opposition from civil libertarians, the legal profession and MPs. Yesterday's proposals were drawn from a recommendation of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice which reported under Lord Runciman of Doxford in 1993. It was the most controversial of the 352 recommendations made by the commission.

The origins of the jury are lost in history. The word comes from the Latin for law, *ius, iuris*. The idea may have been indigenous or imported by the Norman invaders of 1066 but it was in place by the 13th century, gradually replacing trial by ordeal.

Jury trial was thought to be enshrined as a constitutional right in Magna Carta in 1215, which says that "no freeman shall be taken or/and imprisoned, or dispossessed, or exiled, or in any way destroyed... except by the lawful judgment of his peers or/and by the law of the land". But historians now believe that this refers to a decision of a judge rather than a jury.

The original role of jurors was very different from that of today: they were witnesses who swore an oath but did not pronounce judgment. They came from the same neighbourhood as the accused and their job was to determine the facts of the case using their knowledge of him and local circumstances.

The anonymity of jurors developed as the close-knit medieval society broke down and towns grew. Now the 12 members of the jury are required to give an impartial verdict, and to do so must have no prior knowledge of the accused.

Many judges and historians have described the jury system as a safeguard of individual liberty. Lord Devlin, the late law lord, said the jury "is the lamp that shows that freedom lives". William Blackstone, the 18th-century legal historian, called it "the bulwark of our liberties, the glory of English law".

In principle the jury is a random selection of a defendant's peers but that has never been strictly true. Until 1972 there was a property-owning qualification, which meant cases were heard by mostly male householders.

In lengthy trials today there is a large proportion of housewives and elderly and unemployed people, because workers cannot afford a long period away from their job.

The Juries Act 1974 has a long list of those who are exempt or who can be excused from jury service, including members of the legal profession, clergymen and people convicted of criminal offences in the previous ten years.

Defendants were given the right to elect jury trial in the 1870 Summary Jurisdiction Act, which introduced the choice for all offences with a

maximum sentence exceeding three months in jail.

In 1975 the James Committee first proposed removing the right to elect jury trial for small thefts. The proposal was opposed by a majority in the Commons. In 1988, government officials put forward the idea again with the backing of the Lord Chief Justice at the time, Lord Lane. Again it proved controversial and the Government did not proceed.

In the civil courts, the role of the jury has declined hugely this century. As recently as 1933, 50 per cent of civil cases involved a jury. Today they are chiefly found in libel cases, although a jury of eight may be called at the county court at the discretion of the judge.

A coroner can call a jury of between seven and eleven people in some cases.



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Learn the art of **CRIME WRITING** with Minette Walters and Colin Dexter

TWO of Britain's leading crime novelists, Minette Walters (above) and Colin Dexter, will discuss the art of crime writing at a Times/Dillons Forum at 7.30pm on Tuesday, March 4, at the Institute of Education, London WCL. The audience will also have a chance to question the authors.

Dexter's books are worldwide bestsellers and his Inspector Morse television series topped the ratings with 18 million viewers. Minette Walters has also had television success with *The Sculptress*.

The admission includes £2 off the price of Walters's new novel *The Echo* (£16.99) and £1 off Dexter's *Death is Now My Neighbour* (£9.99). For full details of how to book, see coupon (below).

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# Leading universities lose £12m in grant to under-performers

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LEADING universities will have to forfeit £12 million in grant to reduce cuts at less successful institutions, the Higher Education Funding Council said yesterday.

Overall funding for the 137 universities and colleges of higher education will rise by 2.8 per cent to £3.4 billion next year, roughly in line with inflation. But the council acted to prevent big losses at some universities, as grants were reassessed according to changes in their research ratings in the four-yearly review last December.

That was achieved by capping the increases awarded to the best-performing establishments: nearly £1.7 million was taken from University College London, £1 million from Oxford and £542,000 from Imperial College, London. Of that, more than £1.7 million was redistributed to Manchester, a similar amount to Exeter and £800,000 to Aston, although all three remained among the

biggest year-on-year losers. Peter North, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, said: "The need for the cap means that the selectivity policy is not working fully. It points to the need for better funding overall in higher education and for that we are all pinning our hopes on Sir Ron Dearing." Sir Ron is chairing the Government's review of higher education, which reports in the summer.

Professor Martin Harris, Vice-Chancellor of Manchester, blamed its reduced funding on the drop in research ratings for its medical school. Without the subsidy from other universities, the jobs of trainee doctors in Manchester's hospitals would be at risk, he said.

The biggest annual gains went to Cranfield University (10.3 per cent), UCL (9.5 per cent), York (7.7 per cent), Oxford (7.5 per cent), and Imperial College, London (7.4 per cent). Cambridge, which went down 7 per cent last year, gained 4 per cent this year.

The highest losses were at Exeter (down 0.6 per cent), Aston (0.5 per cent), Queen Mary and Westfield College, London (0.3 per cent), and Coventry, East Anglia, Kent and Manchester (0.1 per cent).

Professor Gareth Roberts, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said: "The funding council has had to manage a very difficult funding round. It is clear that the money at its disposal is grossly inadequate."

Professor Jack Simmons, vice-chairman of the Association of University and College Lecturers, said the settlement meant a continuation of last year's 2.3 per cent cash cut, a real terms reduction of 5 per cent. "We are disappointed but not surprised. Universities will continue to shed staff," he said.

There will be funding for 747,000 university and higher education college places in 1996-97, the same as last year.

## Blunkett to enlist parents in reading revolution

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

PARENTS should spend 20 minutes a night reading with their children, Labour said yesterday at the launch of a "crusade" to raise levels of literacy over the course of two parliaments.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, promised "a reading revolution". An hour a day would be devoted to "fast-paced, whole-class teaching" of reading and teachers would be retrained. A Labour government would declare 1998-99 a National Year of Reading.

The drive to give literacy priority in primary schools would be likely to lead to a wholesale revision of the national curriculum. Mr Blunkett said he would not drop entire subjects but wanted to create "elbow room" when the curriculum was revised in 2000.

A report by a literacy task force, chaired by Michael Barber, Dean of New Initiatives at London University's Institute of Education, blamed low expectations of children's performance for the "unacceptably broad" range of reading ability in primary schools.



Book time yesterday at Grafton Primary School, Holloway, north London. Labour would set a 60-minute minimum.

Barber, Dean of New Initiatives at London University's Institute of Education, blamed low expectations of children's performance for the "unacceptably broad" range of reading ability in primary schools.

Labour's plans, some of which mirror government policies, aim to ensure that by 2001, 80 per cent of 11-year-olds reach their expected

reading standard. By 2006, all children would be expected to reach this level. Pupils who topped expectations would join older classes, and reading recovery schemes would help those who lagged behind.

Parents would be encouraged to play their part by reading to their children or hearing them read for 20 minutes a night, ten minutes

less than John Patten recommended as Education Secretary in 1994. This time would count towards Labour's recommendation of 30 minutes homework each evening.

Trainee teachers would spend twice as long as at present learning how to teach children to read, while existing primary school teachers would embark on a "national programme" of "upskilling".

The Government responded by accusing Labour of stealing its policies. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said: "The work is already being done — through Conservative policies that Labour has opposed. Labour in power has shown little regard for literacy, as its record in local government shows." Unions broadly welcomed the proposals.

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## Fresh shellfish the catch of the week

By ROBIN YOUNG

CONTINUING storms mean fish prices are high and likely to remain so but gigas oysters have not gone up in price although they are in prime condition and lend themselves to frying or stuffing as well as being eaten raw.

Mussels are another good buy, slightly up in price at about £2.30 for a 2kg bag. The best buy, though, is mackerel at about £1.50 for medium-sized Scottish fish.

Advertised promotions include:

Asda: beef topside/silver-side with added fat £4.38 per kg, pork chops £2.99 per kg, frozen haddock fillets in crispy crumbs 800g for £1.99, leeks 45p a lb.

Butterfly: pork chops £3.72 per kg, Lincolnshire pork sausages 454g for 99p, chunky breaded plaice fillets 320g for £1.99, chicken drumsticks 1.1kg for £2.59, white grapefruit 17p each.

Co-op (CWS): fresh beef pot roast £3.99 per kg, spare rib pork chops £2.49 per kg, mince/steak 200g for 99p, closed cup mushrooms 22g for 66p.

Debenhams: topside/silver-side/rump £1.99 a lb, back bacon 200g for 99p, medium eggs 89p a doz.

Harrods: porchetta al forno 100g for £1.99, French turkey sausage 100g for £1.79, French bacon fillet 100g for £2.49.

Leeds: honey-hugged chicken 780g for £2.69, prawns 400g for £2.49, smoked haddock 600g for

£2.99, baby carrots 907g for 69p, glazed green beans 907g for 99p.

Kwik Save: red salmon halves 213g for £1.23, garden peas 300g for 24p, cut green beans 200g for 28p.

Marks & Spencer: £1 off prepared joints, butter-basted turkey breast joint 510g for £2.99, chicken breast portion 100g for £3.29, Yorkshire puddings six for 99p, haddock Scottish fillets four for £3.29.

Morrisons: rump steak £2.99 a lb, whole herring 99p a lb, onions 5lb for 79p, grapefruit six for 49p, cantaloup melons 99p each.

Sainsbury: pork chops eight (900g) for £3.99, British cooked ham 49p a 4lb, Cathedral City mature cheddar £2.29 a lb, leeks 49p a lb, cauliflower 49p each, new potatoes 18p a lb.

Sainsbury: rump steak £3.68 per kg, boneless pork leg joints £3.32 per kg, smoked salmon 400g for £5.65, sausages 454g for 99p, rainbow trout two (550g) for £2.85, cauliflower 55p a lb.

Somerset: boneless leg of pork £2.91 per kg, whole fresh salmon 4.38 per kg, premium pork sausages 454g for 99p, family-size steak and kidney pies 99p each, baby corn 115g for 79p, small new potatoes 99p per kg.

Tesco: topside of beef £4.19 per kg, boneless leg of pork £2.99 per kg, lamb loin chops £3.79 per kg, cod fillet £1.95 a lb, jellied eels 79p a 4lb, salmon steak £2.95 a lb, leeks 49p a lb, closed cup mushrooms 99p a lb.

Waitrose: British diced steak 340g for £2.29, ground pork 300g for £1.99, green Thai chicken curry 300g for £2.25, mandarins 49p a lb.

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Royal Academy plays down controversy over exhibition with blood-filled head and Hindley portrait

## Art's shock troops storm the bastion of tradition

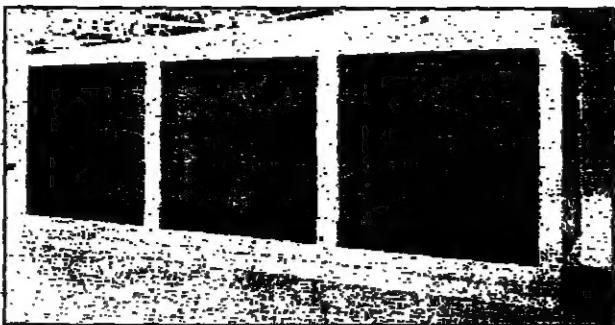
BY DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A SCULPTURE incorporating nine pints of an artist's blood, a gory image of dismembered limbs and a portrait of the Moors murderer Myra Hindley are to go on show at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

The works by Marc Quinn, the Chapman brothers and Marcus Harvey respectively will be lent by the advertising millionaire Charles Saatchi, who has changed the course of British contemporary art by exhibiting such works at his north London gallery.

For Royal Academicians who fiercely guard the Academy's reputation as a bastion of tradition, and who were dismayed by attempts to revolutionise the Summer Exhibition with avant-garde works, news of a show devoted to such art came as a shock.

The RA was yesterday playing down the controversy, although the very title of the show, *Sensation*, indicates



Damien Hirst's tiger shark will be among exhibits

that it is prepared for criticism. Norman Rosenthal, exhibitions secretary, argued that such works were as shocking, difficult and thought-provoking as Goya's *Disasters of War* and Picasso's *Guernica* were in their day. "Art is good when it perplexes us," he said.

The Academy says that apart from reaching new audiences with a central location, showing the works in a new setting and in different juxtapositions will transform them.

Among the most "difficult" images is Harvey's 11ft Hindley portrait, created from thousands of handprints of two children. Relatives of her victims were outraged when it was exhibited last year at the Saatchi Collection and called for it to be banned. Quinn created his sculpture, called *Self*, by taking a rubber mould of his head and filling it over several months with his blood. The Chapman's mutant mannequins conjure up violent and pornographic imagery.

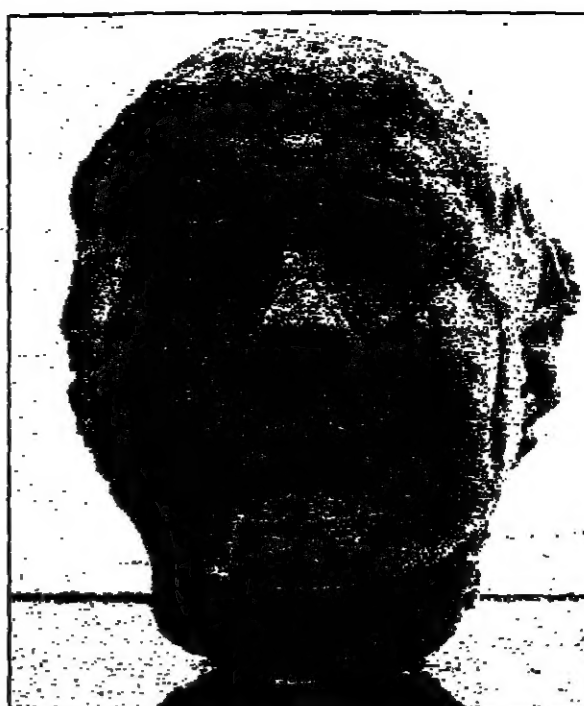
Another exhibit will be the preserved tiger shark by Damien Hirst, who has upset animal rights campaigners by pickling sheep and cows.

The 30 artists to be featured have been hailed as leading lights of their generation, part of an "explosion of creativity" in the visual arts that has not been seen since the emergence of Pop Art in the 1960s.

However, Peter Coker, a Royal Academician who was considered a wild figure in the 1950s with his "kitchen sink" paintings, said: "I'm very much against the RA going down that path. This has put me off my lunch. It's ghastly."

"I might be criticised for being old-fashioned and backward, but how far forward you can look I don't know. I've become a sheer cynic about these things. I've never seen a Damien Hirst work and I don't want to. I can see a dead sheep in my butcher's."

Michael Reynolds, a member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, said: "It's about three quarters of a

Marc Quinn used his own blood for *Self*, left. Marcus Harvey created *Myra* from children's handprints

century since a lavatory pan was first shown by Duchamp as a work of art. That was the last revolution. These artists are getting on a 70-year-old bandwagon. This is the new establishment throttling anything new that might be coming up." David Lee, editor

of *Art Review*, said: "I can't believe it. This is another endorsement for Saatchi. It increases the value of his holdings, ready for when he wants to offload them. Why should they monopolise a space which has hitherto been dedicated to a different kind of

art? They already monopolise all the publicly funded spaces in London."

However, others were more receptive. Leonard Rosoman, RA, said: "The RA should represent a kind of cross-section of what is going on in London. From that point of

view I'm all for it. People should realise the Academy is no longer just representing one form of painting or sculpture. But it'll upset the traditionalists. It's important that people are upset."

The show runs from September 18 to December 28.

## Market keeps a weather eye on master patron

BY DALYA ALBERGE

CHARLES SAATCHI has become Britain's most influential collector of contemporary art. Such is his standing as a patron, he can make or break an artist and his activities are seen as a barometer of the market.

He has such a passion for art that he buys in bulk when he finds an artist he loves. He has been known to snap up as many as 20 works in one go, trusting his eye and relying on gut feeling rather than any professional adviser.

His insatiable appetite was first whetted by a Sol LeWitt drawing he bought in 1970 for £100. In the decades since then, he has introduced British audiences to artists such as Jeff Koons, master of kitsch, Robert Gober, a specialist in conceptual works inspired by Duchamp, and Donald Judd, a minimalist. Damien Hirst, infamous for his presentation of preserved animals, is one of his most famous home-grown discoveries, although Mr Saatchi claims not to have strong

feelings about the nationality of artists he follows.

The art world gets nervous when he sells, questioning his motives and accusing him of being a glorified dealer. Mr Saatchi counters that he does not buy for investment and that tastes change.

"He prefers to be out of the limelight and can be perplexed by media interest, once complaining that people wanted to know more about him than the artists he showed. He has talked of wanting to share his enthusiasm for art with the public. His gallery in Boundary Road, St John's Wood, draws tens of thousands of visitors each year and he lends to galleries around the world."

Yesterday Mr Saatchi, who is curating the *Sensation* exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts with Norman Rosenthal, said: "We owe it to this generation of young British artists to make the show as dynamic as possible."

He spoke of his excitement that the works would be seen by a much wider audience than he could hope to attract at the Saatchi Gallery. "One of the major disappointments that I've felt over the years is that Boundary Road has not opened other people's eyes in Britain to the possibility of collecting, as compared with Europe and the States."

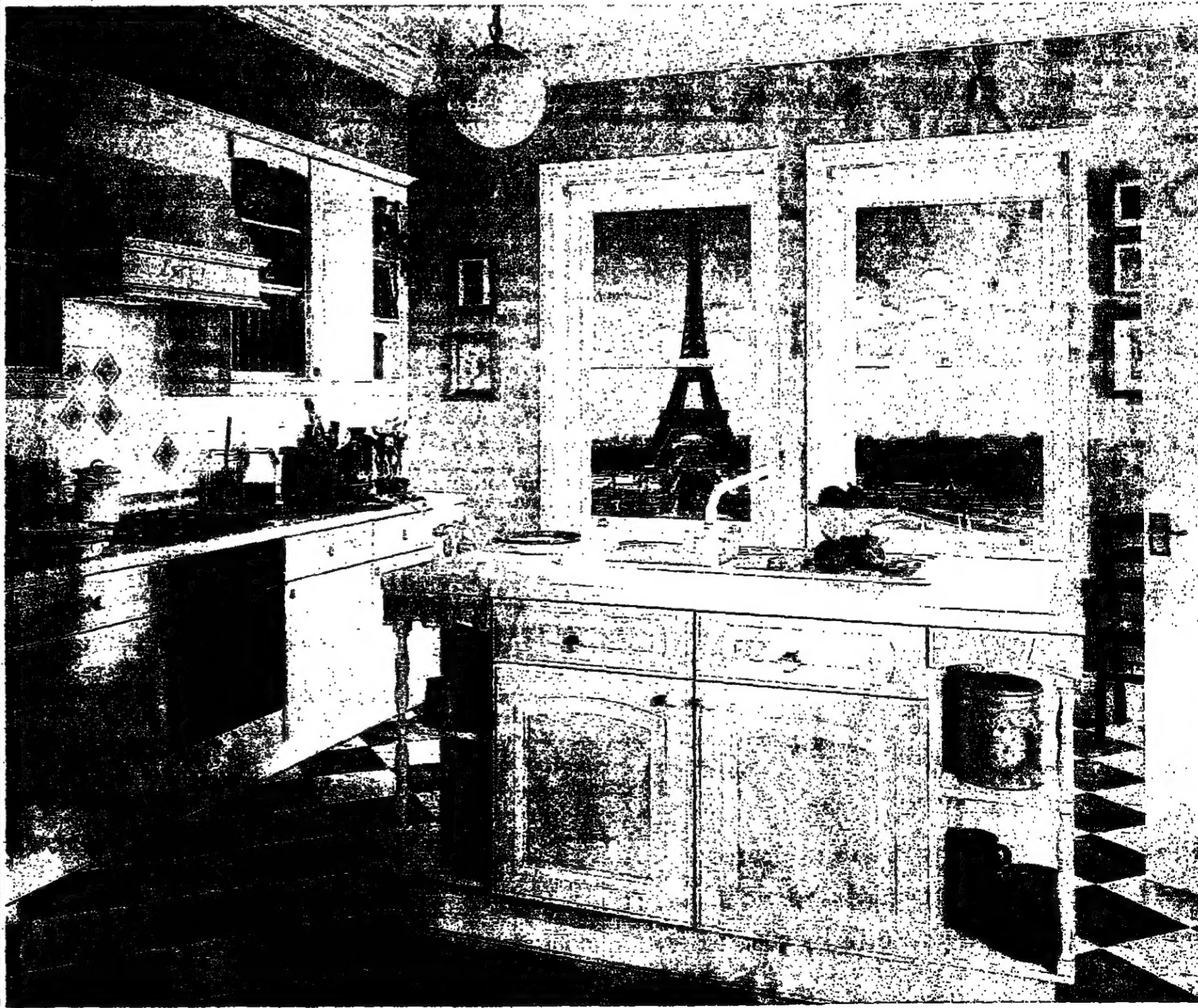
Mr Rosenthal, exhibitions secretary at the Royal Academy, said: "As well as highlighting the vitality and inventiveness of current British art, the exhibition will demonstrate the commitment that Charles Saatchi has shown in collecting the work of these young artists."



Saatchi buys in bulk and relies on gut feeling

Leading article, page 19

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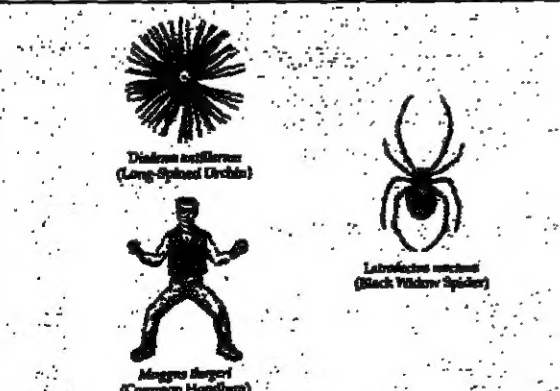
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Poll offers Major small comfort as Labour stays ahead on most key issues

# Ray of economic sunlight brightens Tory outlook

BY PETER RIDDELL

THE Tories are persuading more people that they have the best policies for managing the economy, but are lagging well behind Labour on other important issues for the general election, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, will reinforce Tory claims that they are winning back support on the economy. Among those saying that managing the economy will be very important in helping to decide their vote, 44 per cent say the Tories have the best policies, and 29 per cent Labour. At the end of last March, 34 per cent said Labour, and 31 per cent the Tories.

This change, coupled with the improvement in economic optimism, is the most positive news for the Tories. Among

the public as a whole, the Tory and Labour ratings on managing the economy are almost the same as in 1992.

However, this has been offset by dissatisfaction with the Government's record and a time-for-a-change mood. Moreover, not only is John Major's personal rating less favourable than his was in 1992 or Margaret Thatcher's was in 1983 and 1987, but Tony Blair's rating is far better than those of his predecessors.

Labour is just ahead of the Tories on having the best policies on taxation. This is a big change compared with five years ago, largely because the number saying the Tories have the best policies has fallen sharply. This has resulted in an increasing number of don't knows rather than a rise

in the proportion believing that Labour has the best policies on taxation.

Of the 14 key issues, Labour is ahead on eight, the Tories on five and the Liberal Democrats on one. Moreover, Labour is a very long way in the lead on the three issues raised as most important, healthcare, education and unemployment. The two parties are level-pegging on law and order, a big improvement for Labour since 1992, while the Tories are in the lead on the economy, Europe, Northern Ireland and defence. Labour is also ahead on other social issues such as pensions, housing, transport and trade unions.

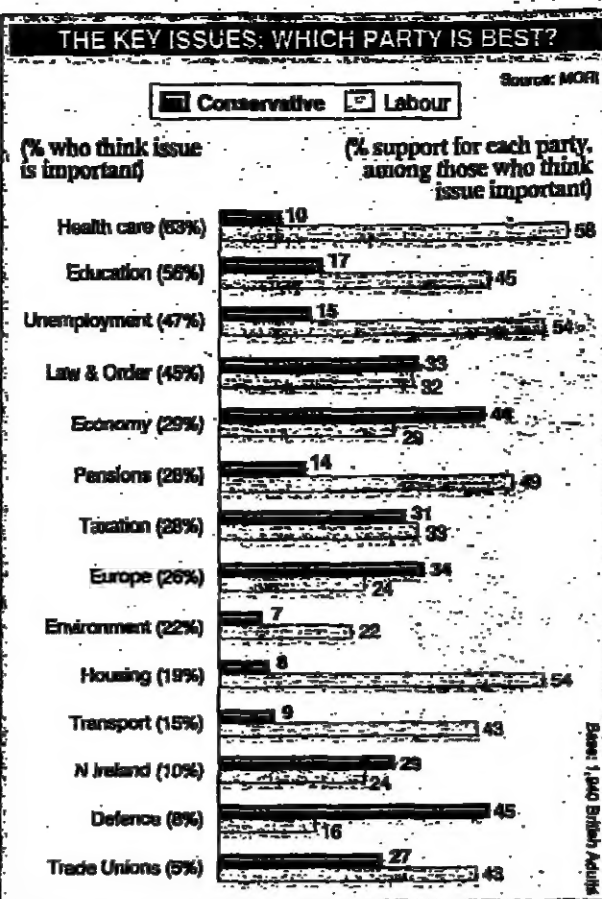
Europe has moved slightly up the rankings of the most important issues, from tenth

to eighth over the past year, among the public as a whole. For Tory loyalists, however, it is the fourth most important, behind health, law and order, and education. But it is only seventh among those who have switched away from the Tories since 1992 and whom the party is trying to win back.

Of those regarding the issue as important, the number regarding the Tories as having the best policies has risen from 31 to 34 per cent over the period. Overall, 63 per cent of Tory loyalists believe that the party has the best policies on Europe, compared with only 18 per cent of those who have deserted the Tories since 1992.

Europe is also important for Liberal Democrat supporters. Some 15 per cent believe that the Tories have the best policies on Europe. The issue is of well above average importance in Tory/Liberal Democrat marginal seats. This suggests that the Tories should emphasise Europe in those parts of the country, such as the South West, where they face a strong Liberal Democrat challenge, since its supporters are more Eurosceptic than the leadership's pro-European stance. The best issue for the Liberal Democrats is protecting the environment, on which they are rated just ahead of Labour.

These findings on which



## Why Soames is right to reject resignation call

Nicholas Soames is right not to resign as Armed Forces Minister. The demands for him to do so reflect a complete misunderstanding of ministerial responsibility. Of course, there are circumstances in which a minister should resign, but as the Public Services Committee argued in its report last summer on *Ministerial Accountability and Responsibility*, "Proper and rigorous scrutiny and accountability may be more important in Parliament's ability to correct error than forcing resignations."

There is no clear pattern. As Geoffrey Howe told the committee, "The question of resignation can hardly be reduced to matters of principle. That may sound a very bizarre thing to say, but so much depends upon the scale of the tragedy, disaster, mistake, on the timing of the disclosure of it." In practice, a resignation has depended on whether a minister loses the support of his or her colleagues, both within the Government and on the back benches.

The idea that there was once a golden age of honour when ministers accepted responsibility for every act of the civil servants in their department is nonsense. It is now accepted that Sir Thomas Dugdale resigned as Minister of Agriculture in 1954 over the Crichton Down case not for this reason but because he lacked backbench support. (This is discussed in *Conservatives and the Constitution*, a thorough study by Andrew Lansley and Richard Wilson published yesterday by the Conservative 2000 Foundation).

An arcane constitutional debate has developed about what accountability means in practice given that no minister can conceivably know what is being done in his or her name by a civil servant in a vast department. Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, has argued that ministers cannot be held responsible for acts of which they have no knowledge, or cannot be expected to know about, but they remain accountable to Parliament for explaining what has gone wrong and how it will be put right. The Public Services Committee was dubious about the possibility of distinguishing between where a minister is

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

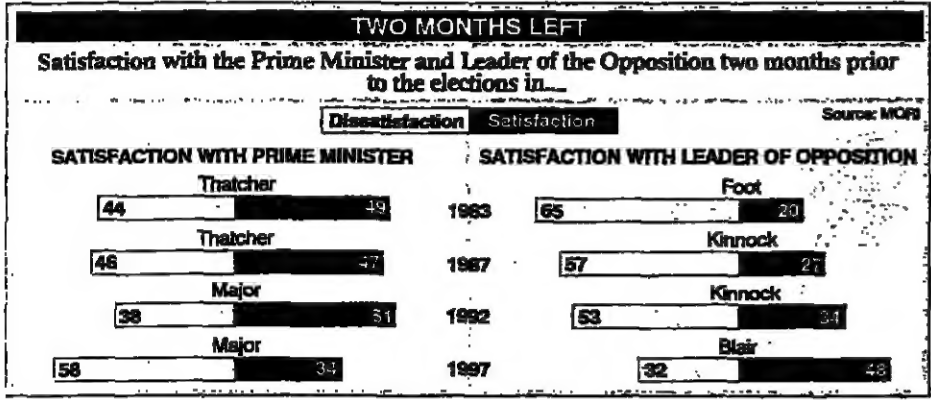
personally responsible, and liable to take blame, from one in which he is constitutionally accountable. Its report said: "Ministers have an obligation to respond to criticism made in Parliament in a way that seems likely to satisfy it — which may include, if necessary, resignation."

The revised version of *Questions of Procedure for Ministers* states that "ministers must not knowingly mislead Parliament and the public and must correct any inadvertent errors at the earliest opportunity". This is also included in a resolution of accountability which the Public Services Committee has proposed and which, after amendment, the Government has said it will bring to the Commons before the dissolution.

These are the yardsticks by which Mr Soames should be judged. Something very serious has obviously gone wrong at the Ministry of Defence over the use of toxic pesticides during the Gulf war. When Mr Soames learnt last September that he had been misled by officials, he informed the Defence Committee of the true position and in December apologised to the Commons for unwittingly misleading it in a series of answers. There is no reason why Mr Soames should be blamed for the actions of officials which are now, quite properly, being examined in a disciplinary inquiry.

The Defence Committee should be informed of the results. The main question for Mr Soames is whether he could, or should, have taken earlier action to find out what had happened. This is likely to be discussed in the Defence Committee report. However, to demand the immediate resignation of Mr Soames — as David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, has done — is unjustified. Mr Clark has been indulging in the gesture politics of opposition, not behaving as an aspiring minister who hopes to become Defence Secretary nine weeks today.

PETER RIDDELL



## Labour councils chief warns of big tax rise

BY JILL SHERMAN

COUNCIL tax bills could rise sharply under a Labour government, one of the party's most senior councillors said yesterday.

Sir Jeremy Beecham, who takes over as chairman of the newly merged Local Government Association from April, also gave warning of tensions between Tony Blair and local authorities if Labour exerts too much central control.

In an interview in yesterday's *New Statesman*, Sir



Beecham: local control

Blair and I wanted a shift in the proportion of money coming from local taxation. I would move early: let the councils take the flak. Nobody will increase tax with enthusiasm, but there has been a hell of a lot of damage to services which has to be addressed."

He went on: "If I was Tony

## Redwood books his place in election campaign limelight

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE former Cabinet minister John Redwood is publishing an analysis of the single currency next month that will stimulate the Europe debate in the Tory party on the eve of the general election.

Mr Redwood, who has finalised plans for a tour of the country during the election campaign, will argue in his 80,000-word book that the only way the single currency can work is by judging the Maastricht convergence criteria.

He will use *Our Country*, published by Penguin, to launch his high-profile election campaign, organised independently of Conservative Central Office, in which he will speak in 30 constituencies.

The Conservative 2000 Foundation has printed hundreds of leaflets listing ten objections to the single currency. Mr Redwood will distribute them during the campaign, underlining his outright opposition to the single currency in defiance of

the party's wait-and-see policy.

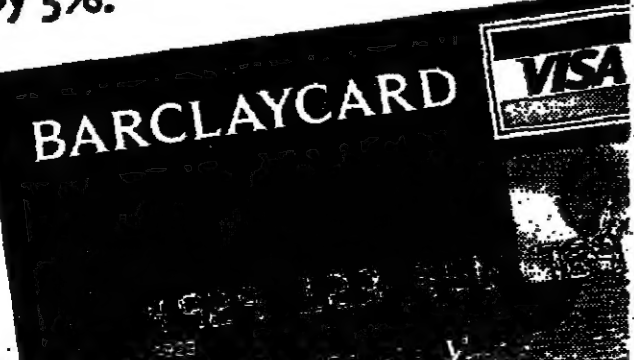
Yesterday he denied that he would be rocking the boat on Europe. He said his book would support the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, whose view was that monetary union could go ahead in 1999 only if other states fudged the convergence criteria. Mr Redwood added: "A single currency would be wrong for Britain and wrong for Europe. Luxembourg is the only country that will qualify by January 1, 1999."

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Necmettin Erbakan is proud of his record in office but is under strong pressure to ditch his radical colleagues**



## Demirel: fears army patience wearing thin

Although the move is purely advisory, it will be one the Prime Minister ignores at his peril. Mr Erbakan's previous political party was among those disbanded when the military staged a coup in September 1980. Then he was banned from political life for seven years.

The meeting is going to be tough and it's going to be nasty," said a close aide to Suleyman Demirel, who as Turkish President chairs the security council. Mr Demirel, himself unseated as Prime Minister twice by the military, has given an outspoken interviews making clear his fears that the military's patience is wearing thin. Earlier in the week he indicated he would call for general elections if his office had the

inflation.

The crowd keeps asking for a beating, they are bound to get one," Mr Demirel told the daily *Yeni Yuz Yil*, a remark aimed not just at the Government but at a badly divided Opposition which appeared to prefer exploiting tensions with the army to new attacks on the Government. The opposition now appeared to fall back to the military, which, stepped out of its barracks just over a month ago. Tanks paraded through the streets of Sincan, outside Ankara, whose radical Islamic Mayor had staged an anti-Islam, "pro-Sharia-law meeting addressed by the Iranian Ambassador." Although the military had been in the city for a week, no plans were planned, he doubted it was a way for the generals to show displeasure.

Modern opinion in Turkey was outraged at the sight, repeated over and over on private television stations, of a former bodyguard of the Sincan Mayor slapping a woman reporter to the ground. The nightmare of being hounded into an Islamic regime prompted a march by secular-minded women on the capital this month.

been alarmed at reports of large sales of pump-action rifles in pro-Welfare parts of the country and of the sight of Welfare supporters in the town of Kayseri wearing paramilitary uniform.

Mr Erbakan yesterday appeared unrepentant over his Government's record which, he said, included lowering interest rates and keeping the economy on an even keel. He

*The Prime Minister is coming under increasing pressure to jettison some of his more radical colleagues. Many commentators believe he would like to steer his party into the political centre, but is unable to abandon a confrontational style that served him through*

**30 years of political opposition.**  
Many believe the generals have remedies short of a coup. Several members of Tansu Ciller's True Path party, now in the ruling coalition, are people over whom the military has influence. They may well come under pressure to withdraw from that coalition.

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**Leading article, page 19**

**BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR**

Greece was isolated earlier this week when its EU partners, led by Britain and Germany, insisted that the Turkish Cypriots would have to be consulted at some stage during the talks, due to begin at the end of this year.

**In an angry reaction** Theodoros Pangalos, the Greek Foreign Minister, said the EU would pay a price for such a move. Athens: and Nicosia insist that there should be no talks or negotiations that implied any recognition of the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which is not recognised by any country except Turkey.

Mr Pangalos called the stance by Britain and Germany "criminal and foolish". He refused to agree a text for a scheduled meeting between Cyprus and the EU, and it was therefore scrapped.

The Dutch, currently holding the EU presidency, said on Wednesday that it would be politically and physically impossible to admit Cyprus without progress towards settling the island's division. The message was reinforced by Hans Van Den Broek, the EU External Affairs Commissioner responsible for enlargement, who said Brussels wanted the Turkish Cypriots to take part in the talks.

The row blew up as Sir David Hannay, Britain's special envoy to Cyprus, was having talks in Athens and Ankara. Britain insists that

substantial progress in finding a political solution for Cyprus must be made this year. However, after recent violence on the Green Line and heightened tension between Greece and Turkey, the two sides are now further apart than ever. Sir David will return to Cyprus on March 11.

Britain, one of the guarantor powers in Cyprus, has reacted angrily to Greek intransigence. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, made clear that there was no question of admitting only the southern half of the island. He also said that the EU negotiations should, in themselves, speed a resolution; face-to-face talks ought to begin in the next few months.

"At the end of the day, we do want to see a situation where all Cypriots are able to participate in the accession negotiations," he said. Britain had "no intention" of recognising the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state, but he made clear that only a united Cyprus could be admitted as a full member of the EU.

The row could pose a big threat to two vital EU interests: enlargement to the east, and the customs union between the EU and Turkey. Greece is already blocking EU funds aimed at offsetting Turkey's loss of revenue from tariffs lifted under the customs union. And if Athens refuses to ratify the accession of new members from central and eastern Europe, no expansion can take place at all.

Turkey, in turn, has threatened to veto the expansion of Nato if EU funds for Ankara are still blocked. The Turks say that there is a clear link between economic and security issues.

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# Wagner soap opera rages over keys to Bayreuth

## Family patriarch accused of secretly supporting Hitler

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

TWO angry great-grandchildren of Richard Wagner have launched a new round in the long soap opera family feud over the legacy of the controversial German composer.

Their immediate target is Wolfgang Wagner, the 78-year-old patriarch of the annual Bayreuth festival and edgy controller of Germany's most famous opera house. Ever since Richard died in 1883, a Wagner has run the festival: now the succession struggle is heating up. In books published this week, Gottfried and Nike Wagner — respectively son and niece of Wolfgang — accuse him of concealing his anti-Semitism and of stifling innovation with leaden productions. As far as Nike is concerned, her anthology —

entitled *Über Wagner*, Reclam Publishing House, Stuttgart — is a kind of election manifesto. The 51-year-old Vienna-based intellectual is pushing hard to take over from her uncle.

Gottfried's book — *Wer Nicht mit dem Wolf Heult* (Kiepenheuer and Witsch, Cologne) — is more of a filial reckoning, a denunciation of an emotionally remote and politically suspect father. Cut off by Wolfgang because of a lecture tour in Israel dedicated to Richard Wagner's anti-Semitism, Gottfried is an outsider in the succession stakes.

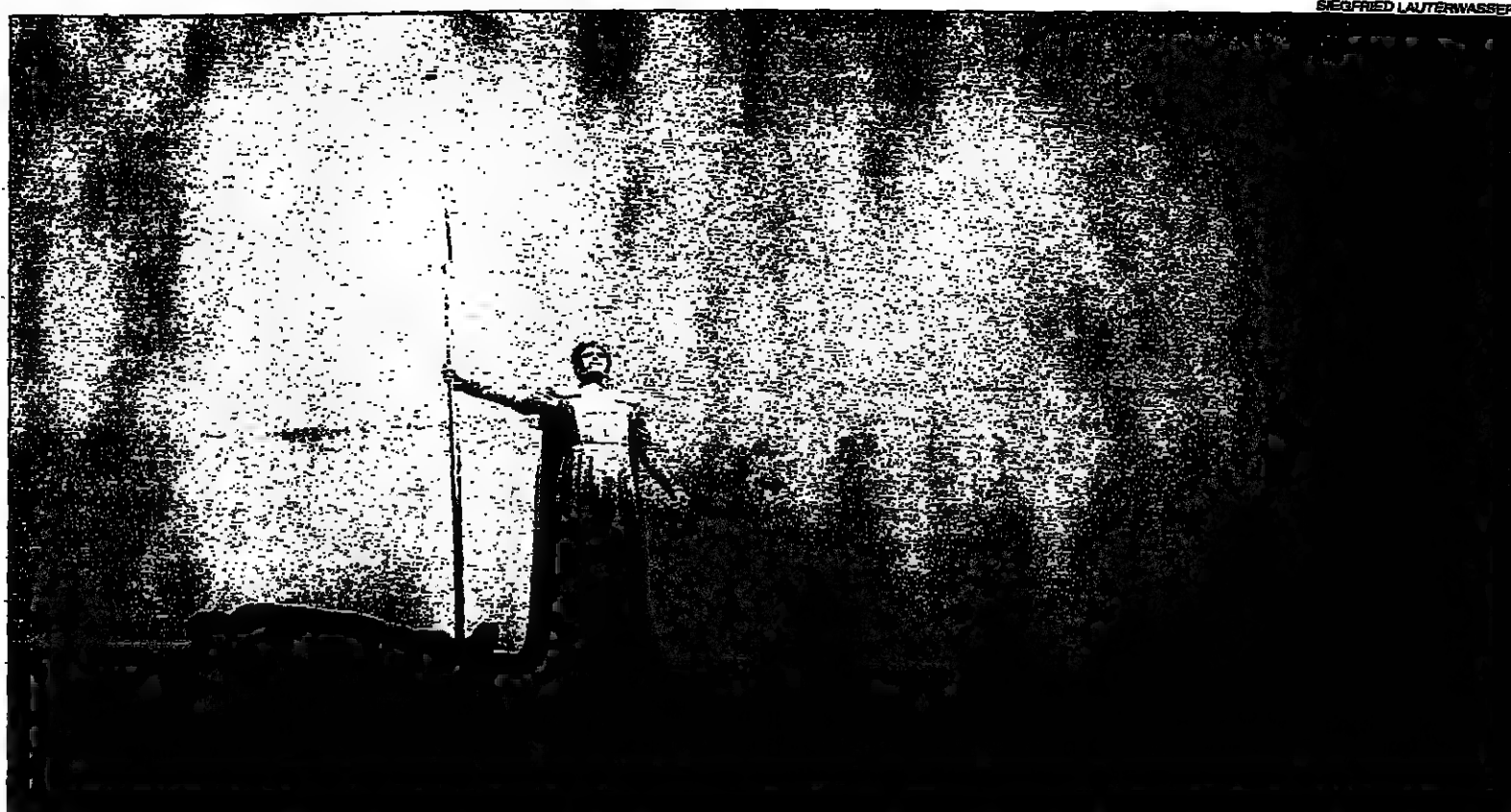
Wolfgang presented his credo in an autobiography three years ago in which he barely mentioned his children and played down his intimacy with Hitler. Gottfried, however, is

determined not to let his father off the hook and remembers his proud stories. In one, Wolfgang recalls sitting with his brother Wieland at Hitler's feet. "We were squatting around the fireplace and Hitler presented his vision of the cultural future — as soon as we have cleared the world of the Bolshevik-Jewish conspiracy, then you, Wieland, will be in charge of the Theatre of the West and you, Wolfgang, will command the Theatre of the East."

Wolfgang, in a rare chat with his son, explained that Hitler "had conquered unemployment and earned worldwide respect for the German economy". As for the extermination of the Jews, that was Hitler's "only mistake".

There can be few surprises left about the Wagners and their anti-Semitism. Richard Wagner's 1850 essay *Jewry in Music* has been excused as a mere reflection of 19th-century anti-Semitism, but it is peppered with snide remarks about Jews.

The significance of Gottfried's latest examples of anti-Semitic comments is that Wolfgang has built up his reputation as the man who made a clean break with the past. Conductors of Jewish origin, such as Daniel Barenboim and James Levine, were invited to Bayreuth, and Wolfgang's stolid productions



Wotan, the archetypal Wagnerian role, as portrayed at Bayreuth in the postwar years by the great German bass-baritone, Hans Hotter

avoided political controversy. Wagner's anti-Semitism does not play a big part in Nike's book, though it helps her cause to have Wolfgang demolished in public. She is the daughter of Wieland whom most critics seem to agree had much more artistic talent than Wolfgang. She accuses her uncle of making a witches' mountain (a *Blockberg*) out of Bayreuth on which the ghosts

of the past are summoned again and again. Nike, whose qualifications are those of a musical critic rather than director, proposed that the Wagner festival be staged every two years instead of annually to allow new ideas to develop. The conventional comparison of the Bayreuth succession contest is with the antics of the Ewing family in the *Dallas* soap opera. The family, and

the plot, are indeed tangled. Wolfgang considers both Nike and her brother, Wolf-Siegfried (a talented stage director), to be disloyal and unworthy of Bayreuth. Even as a child Gottfried was banned from playing with them.

Eva, Wolfgang's daughter by his first marriage, is a talent scout for the Metropolitan Opera in New York but

she, too, is not considered a worthy successor by Wolfgang. Gottfried's lasting concern with Wagner's anti-Semitism seems to exclude him. The most likely member of the family to take over after Wolfgang's death is his second wife, Gudrun.

Bayreuth need not be controlled by a Wagner. The festival is managed by a public foundation with an

elected board. But five out of 24 seats are reserved for Wagner family members and they, or rather Wolfgang, usually carry the day. His rule is crumbling, however, and like King Lear the king of Bayreuth is stumbling on blindly, banishing his children, disinheriting and pronouncing curses. This, say Wagnerians, will be the year that the fourth generation strikes back.



Richard Wagner and his descendant Gottfried, who is campaigning to take over the reins at Bayreuth

## Palestinians start Jerusalem protests

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN HAR HOMA

PALESTINIANS yesterday launched the first of a series of protests against Israel's decision to build 6,500 Jewish homes on a hillside in occupied east Jerusalem which many fear will culminate in widespread bloodshed when bulldozers begin work next month.

The march, to be followed today by attempts to hold a protest session of Muslim Friday prayers at the spot, was matched by a growing diplomatic offensive against Israel and chilling warnings of new

terror attacks by Hamas, the Islamic group behind the suicide bombs that have claimed scores of Jewish lives.

As the Israeli Army completed preparations for a retaliation programme code-named Operation Field of Thorns, to be put into effect in the event of violent Palestinian reaction, Ehud Olmert, the right-wing Mayor of Jerusalem, gave a defiant press conference on a rocky hillside overlooking Har Homa.

"If someone believes that there is not going to be an appropriate Israeli reaction to any Palestinian violence, he is totally wrong," the Mayor, a

leading member of the ruling Likud party and a close confidant of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, said. "Anyone who will use guns in opposition to us will make the mistake of his life. It will blow up the entire peace process."

Leading the Arab condemnation of Israel's decision to start building on Har Homa as soon as the last legal appeals against the construction project are over was King Hussein of Jordan, the country that ruled over the hill to question "until it was conquered by the Israelis during the 1967 war."

The King, whose brother

Prince Hassan cancelled a visit to Tel Aviv planned for tomorrow in protest, told Mr Netanyahu in a letter that the move "could shake confidence in the peace process and arouse feelings of anger that would create violence and threaten the process of peace building".

Shooting move: An Israeli military court ruled yesterday that Noam Friedman, 22, a soldier who shot and wounded seven Palestinians in Hebron last month, be treated in a psychiatric hospital and not jailed. (Reuters)

Letters, page 19

## Pentagon 'UFO' site revealed on film

THE Pentagon is bracing itself for calls from conspiracy theorists after news that Area 51, a top-secret site where the American Government tests stealth aircraft and is alleged to have held captured UFOs, has been revealed on camera (Anjana Ahuja writes).

The film, made in 1964, does not record details of the site but shows a scientist chalking on a blackboard the phrase

"move out to Area 51". The authorities have never acknowledged the site, and often deny its existence.

The footage was uncovered by Hugh McDaid while shooting *Robot Warriors*, a documentary on unmanned aircraft.

According to Mr McDaid, the film was a top-secret briefing film for military and intelligence personnel. The scientist shown writing on the blackboard was

Clarence "Kelly" Johnson, who designed the Lockheed U2 spy plane.

The refusal of the USAF to confirm or deny anything regarding the site has fuelled speculation that it is a cover for something more sinister than testing new aircraft. Some believe the US Government has captured flying saucers and used the base to conduct experiments on the vehicles and their inhabitants.

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مركزاً من راحل



# Sleaze allegations grow as French TV chief is charged

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S leading television station, TF1, was caught up in corruption allegations yesterday as its chairman was charged with misuse of corporate funds.

In the latest sleaze scandal to hit French public life, Patrick Le Lay was questioned at length by the Versailles-based magistrate, Jean-Marie Chariot, who is investigating claims that TF1 diverted money into a secret fund.

M. Le Lay was charged along with one of France's leading industrialists, Martin Bouygues, chairman of the construction group, Bouygues, which owns TF1.

The accusations will fuel the suspicion, shared by many French people, that the country's elite is untrustworthy and incompetent. The claims follow a long list of corruption allegations against leading politicians, media figures and industrialists.

M. Chariot suspects that Bouygues companies paid up to Fr5 million (£550,000) into Cerial, a fictitious consultancy, run by Jacques Dupuyduby, the company's former vice-chairman, between 1987 and 1993. It is not known what the secret fund was used for but there has been press speculation that it went to political parties.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s it was commonplace for leading French firms to make clandestine donations to political parties in the hope — usually fulfilled — of receiving



Bouygues: his company owns television station

favours in return. France has since adopted strict laws designed to limit political financing, although many analysts believe that the parties still manage to get around them.

There have also been suggestions in the media that Bouygues used Cerial to win business contracts with under-table payments. At least some of the Fr5 million was channelled into an account in Madrid. Both M. Le Lay and M. Bouygues deny the charges, saying they knew nothing of the funds paid to Cerial.

The affair is embarrassing for Bouygues, a household name in France, which employs 70,000 people, and for its most prominent subsidiary, TF1. But it is certain to be welcomed by the extreme right-wing National Front, which owes its electoral success in part to its claims that

France's rulers are "all corrupt".

The extremist movement tells its white working class electorate that they are the victims of an egotistical elite preoccupied with making money, promoting foreign interests and hiding the truth. "The television lies", is the slogan on one of the Front's posters.

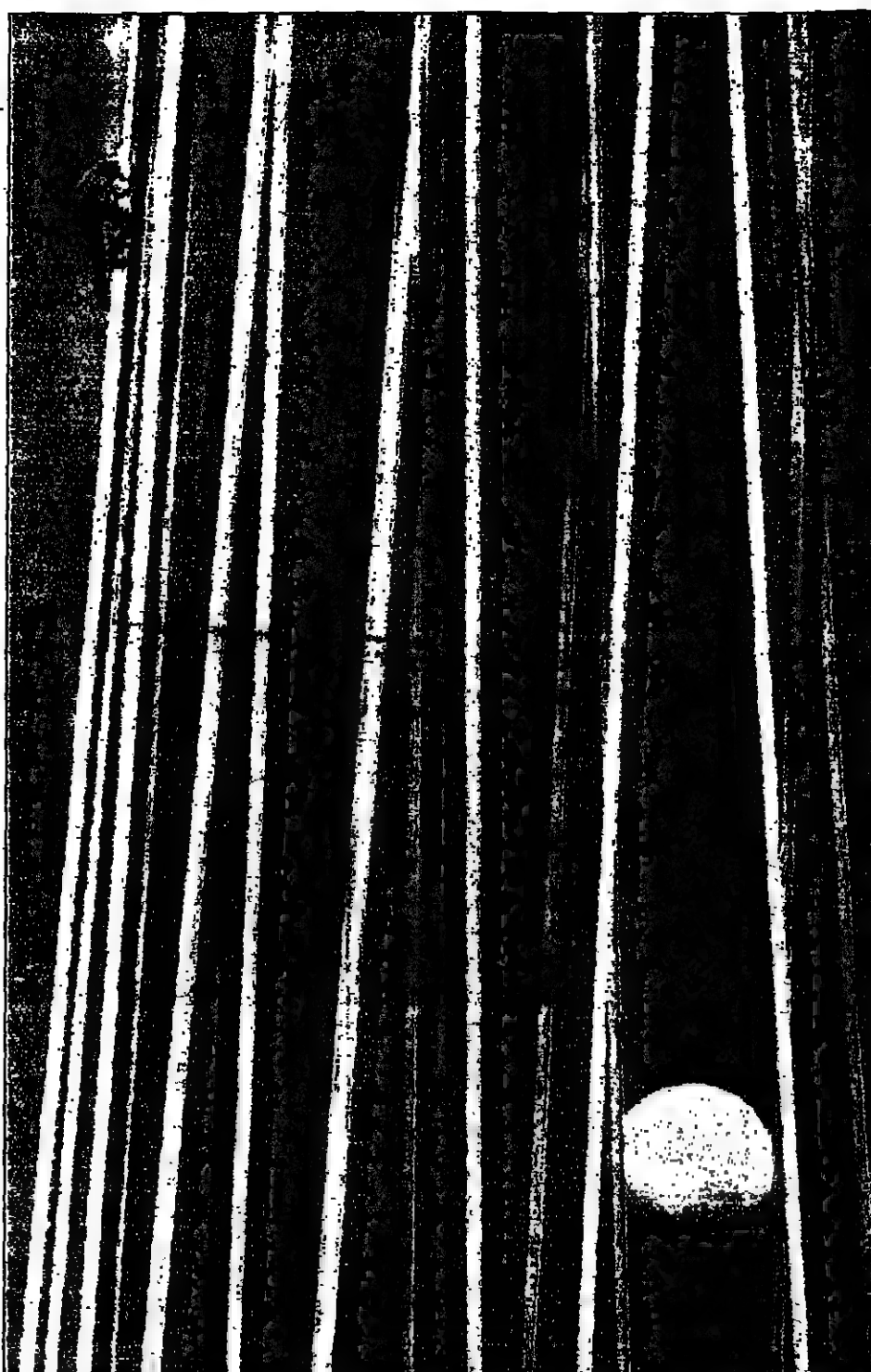
TF1, an independent channel, dominates French television, consistently winning bigger audiences than its publicly-owned rivals, France 2 and France 3.

This is not the first time it has been in legal trouble. Two years ago M. Le Lay was questioned over claims that his station bribed officials to be allowed to broadcast the national lottery results. He was released without charge.

M. Bouygues was charged with the misuse of corporate funds in 1995 in connection with an investigation into political financing.

Patrick Poivre, d'Arvor, TF1's best-known news presenter, was found guilty last year of receiving illegal funds after an inquiry into the same affair.

□ Marseilles: A court yesterday refused to grant Bernard Tapie, the bankrupt businessman and former football boss, day release from prison, wrecking his attempt to star in a second film. Tapie appeared last year in Claude Lelouch's *Hommes Femmes: Mode d'Emploi*. (Reuters)



The moon shows through the cables on Sydney's Centrepoint as Alain Robert climbs



The climber, circled

## Swoop by police foils daredevil climber

FROM REUTER IN SYDNEY

A FRENCH "spiderman" who has climbed some of the world's tallest structures — including London's Canary Wharf tower — was caught in a police web yesterday half way up Sydney's Centrepoint Tower.

Alain Robert, 34, a rock climber from southern France, crawled up the tower's twisted outer cables soon after dawn. But as a police helicopter circled overhead, he was nabbed as he passed a maintenance platform halfway up the 1,066ft tower, Australia's tallest building.

Police handcuffed him and took him away. He is to appear in court today charged with illegally climbing a building.

M. Robert has scaled high buildings around the world, including the Eiffel Tower, the Golden Gate Bridge and Hong Kong's Far East Finance Centre. He is regularly arrested and fined.



Spectators look up to the "spiderman" as he heads towards arrest halfway up Australia's tallest tower

## 7,000 mourn murder victims

BY ADAM SAGE

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Prime Minister, was among 7,000 mourners yesterday at the funeral for four young women murdered in northern France this month. President Chirac sent a wreath.

The ceremony brought the women's home town of Boulogne to a standstill. Shops closed, children stood for a minute's silence and local people stopped work to pay

their last respects to Isabelle Ruffin, 20, her sister Amélie, 17, Peggy Merlin, 20, and her sister Audrey, 17.

The four were kidnapped, beaten, raped and murdered after an evening at a carnival two weeks ago. Their bodies were discovered last Friday, buried a beach near Boulogne.

Two scrap-iron merchants recently released from prison, Jean-Michel Jourdain, 34, and his brother Jean-Louis, 38, have been charged with the

murders. They deny the allegations, each saying the other was responsible.

As details of the women's ordeal have been disclosed, there have been protest marches and petitions calling for a return of the death penalty. Yesterday, however, mourners respected a call for calm from Laure Lamotte, adoptive mother of the Ruffin sisters. "I want reflection and prayer worthy of the girls," she said.

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## Dutch republican cabal breaks taboo in attack on royalty

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

THE House of Orange, one of the most popular and placid monarchies in Europe, is facing a republican assault from a powerful group of Dutch businessmen and notables.

Fifteen prominent Dutchmen, including a former government minister and heads of major financial institutions, have formed a secret association to promote the republican cause, breaking the country's cast-iron taboo on criticising the Royal Family, according to *De Volkskrant* newspaper. At least five of them have received honours from Queen Beatrix and one was a former member of a royal commission.

Led by Pierre Vinken, the former chairman of Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, the *Republikeinse Genootschap* believes "a hereditary monarchy, with a divine right to rule, has no place in a political democracy", according to excerpts from the association's documents.

Founded last autumn, the association had intended to wait at least two years before going public, waiting until the monarchy "overestimates [its position] and makes a fatal error".

"A republican state is the only major taboo left in The Netherlands," Mr Vinken wrote in a letter on the association's purpose. "Politicians, both on the left and right, are without exception either monarchists or dare not say they are otherwise. Against this background, it is vital the *Republikeinse Genootschap* exists to give a clear if weak signal that will perhaps

cause younger generations to think again [about the monarchy]." Several of the association's members have tried to play down its purpose, saying it was "just a dining and discussion group". Three others, including Pieter Korteweg, head of Robeco, Europe's biggest investment fund group, have resigned their membership.

A spokesman for the House of Orange declined detailed comment on the association, but said: "Everybody in The Netherlands has the freedom to express their opinions and to hold discussion meetings."

Nevertheless, the revelation of the association's existence and its high-profile members comes at a very sensitive time for Queen Beatrix, who is still trying to paper over the cracks caused by a recent row about her political influence.

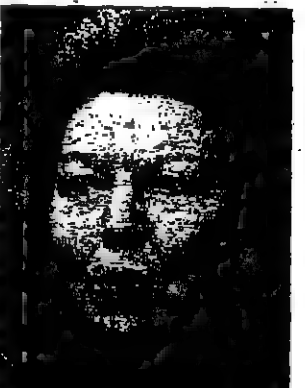
She was accused of overstepping the constitutional mark last autumn by allegedly forcing the removal of the

Dutch Ambassador to South Africa because he was living with a woman who was not his wife. It was also widely assumed that she was behind the recent Culture Ministry decision to withdraw state subsidies from a play which satirised the Royal Family.

Under the constitution, the Queen should be even more remote from politics than the British monarch. But Queen Beatrix, 59, affectionately referred to as *Trix* by the public, has never hidden her strong moral views. She is opposed to homosexual marriage, which parliament wants to legalise, is a fervent environmentalist, and regularly urges the country to be more tolerant of the disadvantaged.

During almost 17 years on the throne, she has protected the House of Orange from the public eye better than any of her European counterparts. But now the shield appears to be disintegrating, not least because of the antics of Crown Prince Willem-Alexander.

The Queen's popularity — she regularly scores 80 per cent in the polls — has been founded on a down-to-earth regal style, endearing herself to the public by being a keen cyclist and planting trees. Willem-Alexander, the first male heir to the throne in 116 years, has been involved in romantic exploits with commoners and seems to prefer fast cars, planes and speed-skating to royal duties. Together with the recent raking over of old scandals, his behaviour has reinforced republican feelings. The press has also become aggressive.



Beatrix lost popularity over political influence



Prince Charles watches yesterday as water is collected from a pump given by ActionAid, of which he is patron

## Prince praises British aid workers during visit to Bangladeshi slum

BY GUEN OWEN

HUNDREDS of Bangladeshi slum dwellers turned out to see the Prince of Wales yesterday as he witnessed at first hand the conditions in which thousands of the country's poorest live during a visit to Tikkapara outside Dhaka.

The Prince, on the second day of a three-day visit to the country — his first — was driven down a bumpy mud and brick road to Tikkapara to see a project at the shanty town funded by ActionAid, the British charity of which he is patron.

Picking his way through the rubbish, he praised the efforts of the relief workers, saying: "I realise what an enormous problem and huge challenge it is in this part of the world."

They told him that the region's slum-dwellers often live six to a house. Their homes are usually no more than two-room huts cobbled together from bamboo straws, old plastic sheeting and rags, and act as slim protection against the floods and cyclones that frequently hit the area.

He also heard about the

efforts to improve sanitation. With up to 20 families sometimes sharing a single lavatory, and limited supplies of clean, piped water, disease is widespread.

Prince Charles later visited Sylhet, a remote tea-growing area 210 miles from Dhaka, where he told a reception given by the town council: "I feel very much at home here as a result of a large number of people from Sylhet who are now residents in Britain."

Officials say about 300,000 people from Sylhet have settled in Britain.

The Prince switched on a satellite telecommunications station built by British Telecom on the town's outskirts. Nargis Islam, a Sylhet resident whose daughter lives in London, said about 90 per cent of families in Sylhet have one or more relatives living in Britain and that the station would help them to keep in contact.

Before leaving Dhaka, where he had arrived late on Wednesday, the Prince had talks with President Shahabuddin at the Bangabhaban Presidential Palace and with Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the Prime Minister.

## Defence chief faces sack after Yeltsin orders end to 'whining'

Moscow. Political speculation about an expected government reshuffle intensified in Moscow yesterday (Robin Lodge writes). The position of the Defence Minister appeared the most precarious after President Yeltsin's call this week for drastic changes.

Mr Yeltsin, who earlier had castigated Viktor Chernomyrdin, his Prime Minister, for failing to

deal with the problem of non-payment of state wages and pensions, turned his ire on Wednesday night on Igor Rodionov, the Defence Minister, ordering him to "stop whining" and get on with implementing long-awaited military reforms.

The press indulged in much speculation yesterday about the likelihood of ministerial dismissals,

with many focusing on General Rodionov and Viktor Ilyushin, a former Yeltsin aide promoted last year to First Deputy Prime Minister with special responsibility for social policy. "Ilyushin is virtually a political corpse," the Moscow daily *Moskovsky Komsomolets* wrote, citing unnamed sources within the Government.

Mr Yeltsin's assault on his De-

fence Minister was prompted by clashes between General Rodionov and Yuri Baturin, head of the Defence Council, over how best to deal with a catastrophic decline in Russia's armed forces. General Baturin has called for radical defence cuts as a first step to reforms; General Rodionov is demanding more government funds to guarantee living standards of servicemen

and restore morale. He has also accused General Baturin of playing down the problem.

The Kremlin reprimanded the Defence Minister for speaking out and called on the two men to work together. "The President knows how difficult it is now for the men in epaulettes. But whining will not help matters: concrete actions are needed," it said in a statement. Mr

Yeltsin is due to give a state of the nation address next Thursday, during which he is expected to announce any changes in the Government.

Earlier this week there were rumours that Mr Chernomyrdin was himself under threat, but it is widely felt that his position — bolstered by four years of unwavering loyalty to Mr Yeltsin — is secure.

## US Army 'pursuing witch-hunt over gays'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MORE homosexuals and lesbians are being discharged from the US armed forces under President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy than before it came into effect, a study showed yesterday.

The Servicemembers Legal Defence Network, a group providing lawyers for military personnel accused of homosexuality, said that the spirit of the law was being broken by a deliberate pattern of witch-hunts throughout the ranks, including seizures of diaries and threats of prison against those accused unless they betrayed other gays.

Last year 850 people were discharged by the Pentagon for homosexual activities, compared with 682 in 1993 when there was still officially no tolerance for homosexuals and the armed forces were larger.

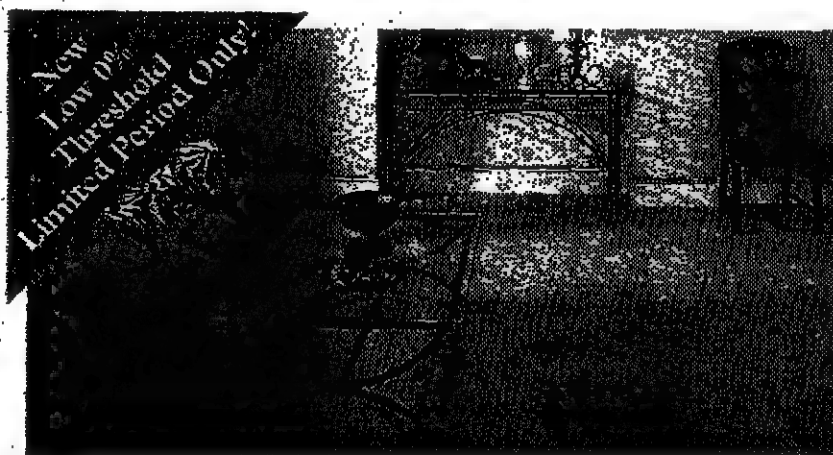
The "don't ask, don't tell" policy was a shaky compromise between Mr Clinton, who had campaigned on a promise to end the ban on homosexuals in the services, and those in the Pentagon and Congress who were determined to keep the ban. The new law continues to ban gays in uniform, but bars the active hunting down of them by military commanders.

Yet that is still happening, according to yesterday's report. It said the new policy had evolved into a Machiavellian system where the end justified any means of "ferreting out all gay men and women who serve our country". Discharges fell disproportionately hard on women who make up 13 per cent of the armed forces but accounted for nearly a third of the dismissals. Women were often accused of being lesbians after rebuffing male sexual advances or reporting sexual abuse, the study said.

William Cohen, US Defence Secretary, denied that the growing number of dismissals warranted a change in policy. He promised, though, that if he found there was active pursuit and prosecution of gays, it would be halted. In Congress, 36 members demanded that he take immediate action to protect gays and lesbians from harassment.

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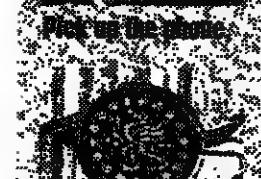
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# When fashion designers' parties are the measure of a capital's cool



Naomi Campbell with Joaquim Cortes at the Miu Miu party, which was held at The Naval and Military Club in Piccadilly during London Fashion Week

The

Exhausted and all partied out — at the end of London Fashion Week, Style Editor Grace Bradberry finds designers just want to have fun

Ever since *Newsweek* produced their "Cool Britannia" issue, London's resurgence as a fashion capital has been a media fact.

This month's *Vanity Fair* runs home the message with the original strapline "London Swings Again" below a picture of Patsy Kensit in a black bra, and Liam Gallagher, swathed in a Union Jack and showing off his armpits.

But no matter how much hyperbole enters the headlines, nor how outlandish the venue for Alexander McQueen's catwalk show, there can only be one true barometer of a capital's cool — the parties.

The pace was set last season by the American designer Donna Karan, who blew half a million pounds, converting a Shepherd's Bush warehouse into the sort of place Karan would choose to live — all monotone Moroccan, with hundreds of candles and cream floor cushions.

But there has been nothing much since. The opening of Calvin Klein's Bond Street store is still months away, and Versace's Rock And Roll party, which might have upstaged anything in London Fashion Week, was abandoned when Diana, Princess of Wales, took umbrage at the contents of the accompanying book, for which she had written a foreword, and refused to attend.

Many in the fashion world will have breathed a sigh of relief that Versace's £100-a-ticket bash was cancelled. Not only is Versace renowned for throwing thoroughly tacky parties, but they might also have been forced to pay — and there is nothing that industry insiders loathe more.

The perfect party in the eyes of the fashion world was probably that thrown by Donna Karan. She carefully delineated the status of its members, inviting "front row" fashion editors to an intimate dinner for 300, where they could mingle with celebrities and supermodels, before 500 of their less distinguished peers were allowed in for the after-dinner party.

By contrast, the Miu Miu party on Sunday, which was the event of London Fashion Week, was superficially a democratic affair. The host, Miuccia Prada, was once a member of the Italian Communist Party, and is what counts in fashion as an "intellectual". She is famous for leading the move away from obvious status symbols — the gold-chained Chanel handbag — to less obvious ones — her own black nylon bags, bearing a discreet but instantly recognisable triangle logo.

Her party for 1,000, held at The In and Out Club (The Naval and Military Club) in Piccadilly, was planned as the very antithesis of a Versace bash. The theme was a debutante's first party — though how many debutantes' parents are now prepared to spend £200,000 moving in antique furniture, planting ivy in the courtyard and flying a cocktail

mixer in from New York is questionable.

About 600 of the guests were from the fashion industry. Vivienne Westwood, whose show had preceded Miu Miu, looked especially knowing, having robbed Prada of publicity by using 13-year-olds on the catwalk. The shoe designer Patrick Cox was there, as was Selina Blow, wearing one of her own velvet coats.

The remaining 400 guests were friends of Miuccia — a gaggle of Italians who made their way swiftly to the restaurant — and assorted hip people drawn largely from the film and music industries. Naomi Campbell arrived with her current boyfriend, the flamenco dancer Joaquin Cortes, and again disappeared into the restaurant where she dined with Miuccia.

Indeed, as celebrities arrived, they just as soon disappeared into the dining room. It was only when lower tier guests tried to penetrate this inner sanctum that the flawed nature of democracy became clear. Anxious to please the VIPs, the maître d', borrowed from the London restaurant Quo Vadis, turned most others

away, suggesting they return after midnight on the off-chance that a table might become free.

Later in the evening, the grada team themselves became victims of celebrity tantrums. The Artist Formerly Known As Prince settled into the red smoking-room, surrounded himself with bodyguards, and refused to let any of them come near.

This, and the impossibility of securing a table, provided ample topics of conversation when alternative topics — was that Damien Hirst? (it was); had the McQueen ticket arrived yet? (it hadn't); had the dress been bought at discount or cost price? (no industry insider ever pays the full whack) — had been exhausted.

Conversation was aided by the huge supply of alcohol. This was not an event at which to order spritzers. Instead, the evening virtually swam in Louis Roederer champagne, washed down with pink Litchfield gin, Mai Tais and Bourbon Sours. Upstairs, just before the dancefloor (fury fashion people don't dance), was the cocktail bar, manned by Eugene, flown in specially from the Pravda bar in New York. The speciality was something called Carol Channing (Mad About Millie), vodka-based, like all Eugene's cocktails, mixed with raspberry,

which would appear to be the new cranberry juice.

Contrary to what you might think, it is not the done thing to wear Miu Miu to the Miu Miu party. As one fashion editor remarked: "If you must wear the designer's clothes, at least make it the main line."

Indeed, guests wore Dolce & Gabbana — rose-print slip dresses over coloured bras — mainline Prada — one guest wore a Chinese print jacket and skirt, exactly as it was shown on the catwalk — or anonymous black or grey slip dresses, whose origins would be recognisable only to the cognoscenti.

Just in case anyone might fail to recognise her, Tara Palmer-Tomkinson wore her trademark black dress with the cutaway front, as seen at the head of her *Sunday Times* column. She wore it again on Tuesday night to shoe designer Jimmy Choo's soiree at the Wellington Club, in Knightsbridge.

Held on the same night as the Antonio Berardi show, the Berardi party, another bash thrown by the Spanish designer Amaya Arzuaga, and the opening of the Antonio Lopez show at the Royal College of Art, Jimmy's party faced some pretty stiff competition.

Tamara Beckwith was one of the few to wear Choo's shoes — Tara and her friend Lucy Sykes, a stylist in New York, confessed that they had meant to borrow some but had been too disorganised.

Mandy Smith, who had arrived from the Jerry Maguire premiere, declared that wearing the designer's own label was "naïf", before adding that she had preferred the previous party: "Fashion parties should chill out and I don't mean with drugs and alcohol — people should loosen up and talk to each other."

At conversation takes time, and those who really count often don't stay long. Helena Christensen, who modelled in the Antonio Berardi show, was barely at his party in Legends nightclub, Mayfair, long enough to kiss a few make-up artists. But then, the Berardi party was not a classic fashion event — after the first free brandy (the designer is sponsored by Courvoisier) you actually had to pay for drinks. A tonic water alone cost £1.80, a bottle of house wine £14.

And so the week goes on. On Wednesday night the Irish designer John Rocha threw a party, last night Jasper Conran held a small soiree for his friends. Tonight *Vogue* rounds off the week with a large bash at Nobu, in the fashion crowd's favourite new hotel, The Metropolitan on Old Park Lane. It is an event — only for the brave, with a dress code that states, unequivocally, "glamorous".

But then if Britain's most influential fashion magazine is to support the British fashion industry, it could do worse than create a desperate need for dresses that would have no place in any other walk of life.



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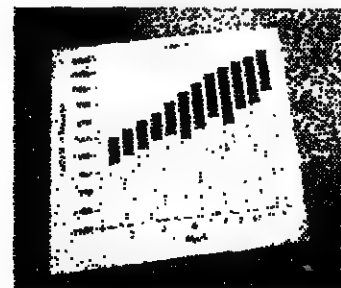
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Sam Mendes on directing, learnt by experience and observation: "It combines amateur psychology, sports coaching, visual art. You become an intellectual and visual magpie"

## Theatre's hot ticket

It is tempting to see Sam Mendes, the theatre's blue-eyed wunderkind, as the bachelor thirty-something hero of *Company*, the Stephen Sondheim musical he directed, to be televised in performance on BBC2 tomorrow night who observes his married friends and reflects on the difficulty of commitment, and his own loneliness. Mendes has no aversion to marriage, but has avoided it so far. When he and Jane Horrocks were an item, and I interviewed Jane, she said: "Do we ever talk about Sam? Not the words of an imminent bride, I thought. That is now over, but they remain good friends."

It would be hard not to be friends with Sam, a young man (31) full of charm and quick intelligence. His meteoric success cannot be due entirely to luck, steady ambition or even talent: he is good with people, too. The name Mendes is Portuguese. His forefathers sailed to Trinidad in a banana boat from Madeira, and his grandfather, the novelist Alfred Mendes, started the literary magazine *The Beacon* with V. S. Naipaul and C. R. James. Alfred, educated at the Quaker Friends' School in Saffron Walden, was a character, a carouser, a raconteur, a womaniser. Sam, browsing with his father in a second-hand bookshop once, found, in

Sam Mendes is young, sexy, and already one of our most accomplished theatre directors, but from the beginning he has made his own luck

### THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Owen Rutter's *If Crab No Walk, A Traveller in the West Indies*, seven pages on his grandfather who, Rutter said, "introduced me to every brothel in Port of Spain". "He was still the same at 80," Sam says. When Sam was 14, his mother took him from Oxford, where he attended Magdalen College School, to Stratford to see his O-level set text, *The Merchant of Venice* with David Suchet. His mother says he never spoke to her at all that day. "I was uncomfortable at 14, an only child out at the theatre with my mother, having to wear a tie, the badge of slavery." Later he sat on the floor at The Other Place,

captivated by Helen Mirren as Cleopatra in her excitingly diaphanous gown. "The theatre became a stabilising influence in a rather unstable childhood." (His parents divorced when he was five.)

But young Sam fixed his own luck: in his gap year he worked at the Gogginheim in Venice, but by the time he arrived at Peterhouse, Cambridge (a very tie-wearing college) he'd switched to English. He put on a college production of a David Halliwell play and knew by day one of rehearsals that directing would be his game.

Having graduated with a first, he was given a job at Chichester by John Gage, gratefully mopping the stage for £30 a week and being allowed to direct Chekhov's *Swansong* and *The Bear* and *The Marriage Proposal*, for one night only. "I tried so hard to make it work, I kept the cast at it way into the night." Rave reviews ensued. Gage gave him, at 23, the newly built Minerva Theatre to play with.

So he became "this wonderful new young chap Sam Mendes". He did *London Assurance* with Paul Eddington, *The Cherry Orchard* with Judi Dench — casting people he had worshipped on television. He directed *Keen* with Derek Jacobi, Ralph Fiennes and Amanda Root in *Titus* and *Cressida* for the RSC. Then along came *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*.

This quirky concoction sprang from Jane Horrocks's gift for impersonating singers in a voice that erupted unerringly from a flat-chested waif. Michael Codron sent Jim Cartwright's embryo script to Mendes: rehearsals were chaotic, as the play was written while they worked, and

Mendes says it was difficult to rein in. It remains — though about 20 minutes too long — one of those unforgettable theatrical events of the 1990s.

"I first met Jane in the form of a cassette tape. 'Hello Sam,' (he mimics Jane Horrocks's broad Lancashire). 'This is my tape. Here's Judy Garland... This is Billie Holiday... Piaf... Gracie Fields.' Laughing the whole time." They had supper in this very restaurant (the Mezzanine at the National) and after "circling round each other warily" were a couple by the time he directed her as Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*. They never shared a home, but Mendes took Jane to Trinidad to meet his relations and she took him to Raventhorpe, Lancashire, to meet hers. It was not such a culture shock: he'd lived in Manchester when his father taught English at the university, and his stepmother is a Mancunian. But the two were chalk and cheese. Jane Horrocks is not really like Ab Fab's Bubble, but she is no great reader, while Sam's cottage, a former almshouse near Oxford, is lined with books.

He bought that after going commercial: he makes "absurd" sums of money from his long-running *Oliver!* at the Palladium. On the other hand, in his mid-twenties he directed at three of the country's major companies (the National, the RSC and the Young Vic) in one year for a total of £15,000.

There is a mystique about the bizarre craft of directing. It is invisible but noticeable, and cannot be taught except by experience and observation.

"It combines amateur psychology, sports coaching, visual art. You become an intellectual and visual magpie." For *The Glass Menagerie* he got deep into prewar New Orleans. I left him browsing through an American academic's thesis on racism in *Othello*. His *Othello* (for "Othello" as the BBC's handbook has it) will open at the National in September.

Directing is both a solitary and a sociable life. "But I'm a team player," he says. I am told he wields a useful bat for The Gaieties, Harold Pinter's cricket team. He is also conscious of the "ultimate vanity" of acting. "Would you be an actor? That neurotic, paranoia-inducing profession?" But he acknowledges that a first night has the emotional impact of a car crash. "Even I, sitting in the bar nursing my drink, am paralysed with fear, and I'm not even on the stage."

Sam Mendes and the Donmar, named after Donald Albery and Margot Fonteyn and known as "the sexiest space in London", are now an institution. He has become one of the new Labour entrepreneurs, grateful for Arts Council grants but also adept at wooing private funding. "You know the Tories, the most destructive influence on the arts, have been in power since I was 14? I pray Labour gets in." He commissions new work, but "unless the material is better than you, it's not worth working on", and says it is one thing to visualise a historical period on stage, but quite another to imagine and reinvent it from the inside — as novelists such as Barry Unsworth, Patrick Susskind,

I'd have been spat out at 45, blinking in the sunlight

and the new bestseller Andrew Miller can. Mendes's next show will be a musical, *The Fx*, a dark political comedy from New York: expect more House Full boards to go up.

Meanwhile tomorrow night viewers can see, on BBC2, the Donmar production of *Company*, one of last year's hot tickets with its haunting songs (*Barcelona*, *Little Things We Do Together*, *Not Getting Married Today* etc). It will be followed, on Saturday night, by Kevin Elyot's *My Night With Reg* (Fiona Shaw as *Richard II*, Arthur Miller's *Broken Glass*).

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"I'd have been spat out at 45, blinking in the sunlight. I would love to run a big theatre some time. But I have many other things to do first — films, musicals, opera..."

## A corner of Paris that remains forever England

Joseph Connolly on a shop the French have taken to heart

British designers such as John Galiano and Alexander McQueen may or may not be taking Paris by storm, but what is absolutely sure is that there is a little corner of Paris that truly has been England for the past 75 years. The shirt-maker Hilditch & Key is the oldest English shop in the capital, and beautifully situated on the Rue de Rivoli, directly opposite the Place de la Concorde.

What is quite startling about this 1920s establishment, however, is the way it has become adopted and adored by the very cream of French society, politics, arts

Philipps, who has been with the company for 14 years, and he makes no secret of which of his illustrious customers he admires the most: none other than Yves Saint Laurent. "In my view," says Mr Philipps, "everything that man touches turns to gold — he is the most perfect designer of all." Maybe so, but he can't be too enamoured of shirts with the YSL label — he makes sure that his own come from Hilditch & Key.

This quintessentially English institution was founded in 1899 in Jermyn Street in London — there are two shops there still, a third having opened last year in Sloane Street. There is also a mail order service and its produce finds its way into top stores around the world, notably Saks Fifth Avenue. The business must have prospered very early on because in the early 1920s it opened its Paris shop — not a



Fan Schiffer

him wearing a Hilditch shirt, cravat and very fetching multicoloured striped alpaca cardigan. But it is the designers' vote that really counts. Karl Lagerfeld has all his shirts hand-made by Hilditch & Key, whose files are bulging with handwritten letters from him, praising the perfection of the product.

Most of the shirts sold are ready-made, but if you do go for bespoke, then you are buying the best in the world: even the buttonholes are sewn entirely by hand — and you simply don't encounter that these days, outside Savile Row, and then only with the suits. Lagerfeld is not the only person at Chanel who finds H&K irresistible. The women's clothes — shirts, scarves, sweaters, wraps and the like — are superb, and the shop has many female fans — Elle Macpherson, Claudia Schiffer, Jane Birkin — even Paloma Picasso. The shop is managed by Bruce

thing that small English companies were noted for doing. The merchandise in the Paris shop is rather more daring than in its London counterparts — cashmere sweaters (a firm favourite) in strong and vivid colours, luxurious cashmere and wool dressing gowns and shirts with a touch more pizzazz.

It is impossible to think of any other non-French shop that has anything like such a hold on Paris as Hilditch & Key — most of the people who make Paris what it is walk through its doors. Hilditch & Key goes about its business with rather more subtlety than the newly elevated breed of British couturiers, but certainly the approach is arresting — H&K has le tout Paris both collared and cuffed.

Hilditch & Key is at 25 Rue de Rivoli (Place de la Concorde) 75001 Paris. Also at 37 and 73 Jermyn Street, London SW1 and 131 Sloane Street, London SW1.

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مركزاً من لاصم



## Philip Howard



### After Dolly, who next? I can think of two candidates for cloning

If we are going to clone the treasures of our human resources, Ted Heath should be the first. He will just have to spare us a few adult cells from somewhere for the heritage preservation industry.

But the Heath clone we want is not Sailor Ted skipping *Morning Cloud* to victory in the Admiral's Cup. Nor is it the choral scholar Ted rapt at his Christmas carol concert or conducting his recording of Elgar's *Cockaigne* overture. Nor is it jolly Ted with shoulders heaving. Nor is it the technocrat Ted rattling off quotes of bananas and butter so fast that his performances win him from *Private Eye* the nickname of Grocer. Nor is it the bestselling author Ted flogging his books (of an almost Archerish banality, particularly sound on banquet menus) from a special train around the posh suburbs, where buying an autographed copy was the next best thing to voting Tory in years without an election. Nor is he the radical, classless Ted, the first Tory Prime Minister from a grammar school.

All these are Ted Heaths we know and love — no doubt to different degrees. But the Heath at the evolutionary stage that we should clone is the grumpy old boy in a suit. For as that he is a unique treasure and irreplaceable. We need the Father of the House glowering at the Grocer's Daughter from his seat below the gangway. We must preserve the Ted Heath selectively pouring scorn on her economic policies and her lack of vision about Europe. We want the Ted Heath who disliked two things above all else: people who disagreed with him and women. And Margaret Thatcher happened to be both. We want the Heath whom Nicky Fairbairn described as "a little boy sucking his misogynist thumb and blubbing and carping in the corner of the front bench below the gangway". We recognise with delight the Ted Heath of whom George Gardiner, with more truth than black propaganda for once, observed that "receiving support from him in a by-election is like being measured by an undertaker".

For that image from the chrysalis Ted Heath is an English institution. And his role as national Mr Grumpy is an archetype. Grumpy has been a fiery star from *Timon of Athens* to Molière's *Misanthrope*, and from *Scrooge* to Stauder and Waldorf, the two Muppet curmudgeons. Thesites played his part in the *Iliad*. And one of the first comedies of the Western stage is Menander's *Dyskolos* or *The Grouch*. Literature as well as life would be poorer without such bad-tempered figures of both fear and fun. Children like to be terrified by rage that is clearly pretended.

After we have cloned Ted Heath for the nation, and incidentally ensured that he can appear simultaneously on *Newsnight* and *News at Ten*, we must consider other national heroes for cloning. Another archetype as powerful as the angry old man in a balaclava is the sage and seer, the wise Merlin figure who can foresee the future from his knowledge of the past. And a strong candidate for that clone is my former Editor who appears on this page on Mondays and Thursdays.

I went to a Claudy (old boys' reunion feast) at Trinity, Oxford. The main speaker, as is the ritual on these occasions, was praising Trinity and Trinity men of bygone days to the skies, when a Falstaffian archetype halfway down the hall rose unsteadily to his feet and cried: "I have an anecdote!" His neighbours pulled him down by his sleeves. But he bobbed straight up again like a bad apple. So he had either to be carried out or left to tell his anecdote. The latter course seemed more prudent. His anecdote ran: "Of course Trinity in our day was the best college head of the river, winner of Cuppers, horse of the brave. But by far the most celebrated event in my time was performed by me. There was this dreadful swot at Balliol over the wall from my room. Called Res-Mogg. Always getting his name in the papers. Well I got my two Service revolvers, and let off 12 rounds at him one night when he was sitting there illuminated. Missed the bugger. But I must have given him one hell of a fright. I often wonder what happened to him in later life."

Just in case there are such Trinity scholars still around, let us clone William for the nation, at once.

## Tessa Blackstone accuses the Government of neglecting culture, and outlines Labour's arts policy

# Heritage versus a creative economy

Recently there has been an avalanche of press reports describing London as the style capital of the world, a symbol of a suddenly discovered, or perhaps rediscovered, "Cool Britannia". Behind all the hype lurks a truth we seem reluctant to acknowledge. It is that as a nation we are pre-eminent in almost every field of the arts and cultural innovation, what Tony Blair in a recent speech on the arts called "the creative economy".

The facts speak for themselves. We account for something like 20 per cent of world sales of recorded music. *Les Misérables* has become a major export industry in its own right, clocking up almost £600 million in overseas earnings. The most innovative and successful creator of electronic games, itself a £6 billion a year industry, is based on Merseyside. And so on. In theatre, fashion, television, design, advertising and architecture, Britain is a world leader. These are formidable assets in a global economy which is more and more driven by a trade in ideas as well as goods.

"Intellectual property" such as music, the audiovisual industries, publishing, software, and other industries whose value derives essentially from rights and royalties, now earns more for the American economy than any other sector. It is growing twice as fast as the rest of the economy and generating jobs almost four times faster. That trend is

mirrored in Britain. The 1991 census revealed that employment in the cultural industries grew 34 per cent in ten years, against a background of virtually no change in overall employment.

That is not to suggest that the nation's cultural life is nothing more than a useful export industry. The arts are an essential component of any civilised society. In an age of uncertainty about our values, they can provide powerful forms of self-identity and communication for individuals and for the nation as a whole. They should stimulate not just national pride but also rational policy. Sadly, the Government has failed to recognise either their commercial or their cultural significance, and the success with which many local authorities have put the arts at the centre of strategies for the regeneration of local economies and of civic pride has been accomplished despite the efforts of central government. There are many examples of government failure, from

the lack of adequate planning for the distribution of National Lottery money to the lack of support for dance and drama students, which means the next generation of performing talent is not getting the opportunities it deserves.

Predictably, an overprescriptive national curriculum has squeezed the arts from school timetables, as a damning report last year from the Royal Society of Arts confirmed. We need to rehabilitate the arts as a legitimate area of public policy. One way to start is by putting them back where they properly belong — at the heart of education. Arts and education feed each other. Schools and colleges are the source both of the artists and the audiences of the future.

For sound social and economic reasons, it behoves good government to foster a climate in which the arts are accessible to all and in which excellence is valued and nurtured. We can build on the commitment of the best local authorities and the innovative work of

the regional arts boards, allowing the Arts Council to be a strategic planner and promoter of good practice. We should recognise that broadcasting is the dominant means of access to an enjoyment of the arts. The BBC's power as a patron of the arts far exceeds that of the Arts Council itself, and on the basis of its Oscar nominations, Channel 4 claims to rank alongside some of the Hollywood studios as a successful film-maker. The recent Labour Party lottery review rightly recommended that all major arts funding applications should include plans to use broadcasting to reach new audiences. More television channels and the advent of digital terrestrial television will make the role of broadcasters even more important.

An arts scene that is genuinely popular and lively, with engaged and critical audiences, enables talent to flourish. At present, too much talent goes unrecognised and undeveloped.

Labour's proposal for a National Endowment for Science, Humanities and the Arts ("Nesta") is intended to address this sad state of affairs. Just as the National Trust encourages endowments of land and property to be enjoyed by future generations, Nesta will encourage artists and other creative people to donate copyrights as an endowment for the support of future talent. Today's successes will provide seed-corn for tomorrow's.

In that sense, the scheme is a paradigm of what a good arts policy should be, building on the heritage of the past, not for its own sake but to discover new directions for the future. It is unfortunate that the government department responsible for the arts goes under the label of "heritage". It should be more concerned with the future than with the past, not least because that future looks bright. The vitality of our cultural life will be a key element in any attempt to rebuild a more cohesive and inclusive society. It also seems likely to be an increasingly significant motor of the national economy, a major potential source of jobs and wealth, and one of the most attractive aspects of our international image. It adds up to an enviable position from which to step into a new millennium, and that is a bonus we ought not to waste.

Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokesman in the Lords.

# The West Lothian nightmare

## What would a Scottish parliament do to England? Make chauvinists of the Tories

It is February 1999. Labour has won the 1997 election and, after a short Commons struggle, instituted referendums in Wales and Scotland to discover whether their peoples desired parliaments of their own. The Scots referendum has included a second question: Shall their parliament have tax-raising powers?

Wales has voted narrowly against a parliament, while Scotland voted "yes" to a parliament but "no" to tax-raising powers. After a long and debilitating fight in the Commons and Lords, a Bill to give Scotland its parliament has passed, the institution has been set up in Edinburgh, and elections to it have taken place. Edinburgh's remit includes health, education, local government, employment, heritage, transport, home affairs (most of them) and a fair measure of the portfolio of the former "President of the Board of Trade" too.

As Edinburgh has no power to raise revenue, but must govern with grants from Westminster, the Scots parliament is in a state of permanent rage at what its members see as inadequate funding from London. Every domestic ill or want is blamed on insufficient resources from London. Scots political careers are being carved by skill in doing this, and conflict is stirred cruelly by the Principal Opposition in Edinburgh, the Scottish National Party, which portrays Scottish Labour (the governing party) as the poodle of an English master, Tony Blair. The campaign brings the SNP rewards in local government elections. Scottish Labour members and their Edinburgh leader, a Mr Robert Mackay, are driven into the most intransigent posture they dare risk, against the Labour government in England. The Scottish National Party is boycotting the London legislature.

The English electorate is baffled and annoyed by all this. Voters hardly understand the feuding within the ruling Labour Party, and are not disposed to try. They are left with a vague feeling that Scottish politicians are a troublesome, greedy and ungrateful lot.

They are, of course, ruled by Scottish politicians — "ruled" in the sense that Scotland has also sent some 55 Scottish MPs to Westminster, where the London government's overall majority is 37. Without these Scots colleagues in the Westminster division lobbies, none of the government's measures, including all its measures for English health, education, local government and so forth, could be passed.

The temperature is high, misunderstandings are easy to fan. Into this unhappy scene step the Secretary of State for Local Government in England and Wales, the northeastern Jack Cunningham, and his Edinburgh opposite number, Mr Mackay. There has been a growing need to choose a site in which to bury low-level nuclear waste, produced in both Scottish and English power stations. Possible sites have been identified in Northumbria and Fife.

English MPs from the North East are enraged, but the whole Scottish Labour Party confronts Prime Minister Blair with the truth that the SNP will make mincemeat of them if Fife is chosen — for Sassenach waste! Blair, weakened by other disputes, tips his London Cabinet into recommending Northumbria.

Mackay beats Cunningham. There is a rebellion by English Labour MPs from the North East plus the whole Tory Opposition, but, using his army of 55 Scots MPs, Blair crushes it in the Westminster division lobbies.

It is unfortunate that at this moment two government Bills are overturned in the as yet unreformed Lords: one to dismantle the last remaining grammar schools in England, the other (the NHS being in one of the more acute of its cash crises) to give the English Health Secretary emergency powers to close hospitals in England without the customary consultation and delay. Returning to the Commons, both Bills provoke rebellions by English MPs, but the Scottish Labour infantry is used to beat both down.

Fate never endowed me with brains, brawn or good looks in any unusual measure; but what did come my way was a calm and massive faith in the power of a sound argument. Grasp that rope, and in the end you will never be confounded. To my surprise, better men than me — cleverer, sometimes, too — gibber in the face of the opinions of others. Being, at heart, always a little afraid of logic, they weigh arguments like flour — "How strongly do you mean people feel about this now?" — rather than evaluating what is sustainable. Thus they minimise the risk of being confounded by their peers, preferring the risk of being confounded by events.

And so we come to this Tuesday's letter to *The Times* from Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. Jenkins is a good, brave man with a powerful mind; but he has taken fright: not at the logic of the devolutionists' case, but at its passion. After a



discussion into the Irish question in the 19th century, he urges that a parliament for Scotland "had better be accepted" or else the Union will be in danger.

But that is not an argument. It is a threat. Lord Jenkins offers it as his solution to the failed West Lothian question. Or, rather, he declares that in the face of this threat, "the West Lothian question, nearly unanswerable although it is, falls into insignificance". It is easy to picture the civilised yet dismissive wave of the wrist with which Lord Jenkins would say "falls into insignificance".

But does it? Will it? Does the question "What would Scottish MPs at Westminster do for?" fall into insignificance? More than two-thirds of the Commons business this week past — a National Heritage Bill, London Underground, social security, the Church of England, education and employment... — would, after devolution, have gone to Edinburgh or appear as "English and Welsh" business at Westminster. Does it "fall into insignificance" to ask what Scottish MPs at Westminster would be doing here?

When the votes of Scottish MPs, strangers to their own country's parliament, swing the Commons axe over St

Thomas's Hospital in London, slash grants to English local authorities, abolish English grammar schools or direct the burial of nuclear waste in England, will the West Lothian question fall into insignificance? Let Scottish MPs vote to close the closure of Devonport naval dockyard, and wait for the *Daily Mail*: "Barry Dounreay waste in Northumbria say Scots MPs"; wait for the first brick through the window of the first Scottish MPs' London apartment; and ask yourself whether that brick, and the anger which will propel it, "falls into insignificance".

Few can match Lord Jenkins's understanding of the Irish question at the end of the last century, but some of us have some understanding of the Tory party at the end of this one. I say to him — what none of the present Cabinet can say but many fear — that his road leads inexorably to the emergence of the English Conservative Party and precisely the "little England chauvinism" that he and I so fear. If, with me, he had watched the response and body-language of the government benches during last week's thrilling debate on devolution, he would know that this

could come very fast — within months, not years. It is shimmering beneath the surface now.

Lord Jenkins says the West Lothian question is unanswerable. It is not. There is a simple answer: the establishment of a comparable parliament for England: not bits of England, not the East Midlands or the Welsh Marches, but England. If we get Scottish devolution, this will become the official policy of the Conservative Party, before the millennium.

It is not too late — but there remain only days — for Mr Blair to withdraw his proposals, in favour of a new post-election consultation across the parties. It is not too late for Mr Major to respond with a recognition that the rage of England would feel against Scottish rule is the rage Scots feel now about rule from England. It's an embarrassment and a bore, but wearily and painfully, both sides must agree to tear up their cardboard models and start again.

This will be almost impossible for Mr Blair to do. But that he wants to and knows he ought to, I can know without speaking to him. I can know because I know he, too, understands the power of argument.

## Bell rings

THEY are already manning the boats at Conservative Central Office for after the election. Charles Lewington, the director of communications at Smith Square, is said to be in the first lift. He plans to leave Central Office after the election, whatever the result.

He tells some that he fancies a return to newspapers, which may be difficult for a while in the light of his obviously politically slanted work over the past couple of years. Others, however, seem sure that he will be finding his way into the

welcoming arms of Sir Tim Bell and his PR business. He has been seeing a lot of Bell recently in planning meetings for the election. Lewington was political editor of the *Sunday Express* and a favourite of its Editor, Eve Pollard, before Central Office came shopping for him. His manner and permanent tan are more suited to a game-show host or Mediterranean gigolo than a political hatchet-man.

Bell's company has been a useful halfway house for many former political advisers. Jonathan Hill, the Prime Minister's political secretary, went there after No 10, as did Stephen Sherbourne, Margaret Thatcher's political secretary.

As one former colleague of Lewington's puts it: "He'd love it with Bell. He is after all a man who likes plants on his desk and his coffee out of china cups."

Threat is rife among visitors to the Royal Opera House at the moment. They have been taking mementoes such as lavatory signs before the place closes for a two-year refit in July. Keith Cooper, the general manager of the ROH, is keen to stop the crimewave. "There

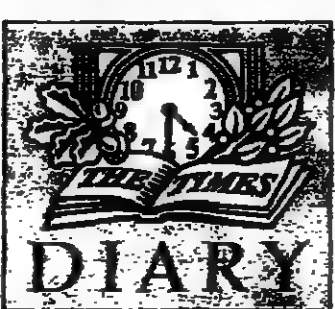
will be plenty of opportunity for people to buy their mementoes, so they needn't steal them." So enough of the furtive trousering.

### One's rush

THE unprecedented levels of security surrounding the state visit of President Weizman of Israel seem to have inconvenienced the Queen as well as London's drivers. On Wednesday, she found herself delayed en route to the unveiling of the Raoul Wallenberg statue.



"I'm sorry, it's another \$20,000 to use the bathroom"



When she arrived, before either her greeting party or her chauffeur could make it to open her door, she had dispensed with ceremony, opened the door herself and got out to be greeted by a flushed Lord Mayor.

### Family fella

FOR anyone still baffled about precisely what it is spin-doctors do, a good example appeared in yesterday's *Sun*. Blazoned across two pages were Tony Blair and his wife, with the Labour leader saying he would "walk away from politics tomorrow" if he was forced to choose between his family and his job.

Only last week, Blair was completely outlandish on the family man front in *Cosmopolitan* magazine. Asked to name the most sig-

nificant events in their lives, a blushing John Major nominated his marriage to Norma, while Blair offered his election as leader of the Labour Party. Thanks to the spinners who guard his image, the record has been put straight.

### Hats off

THIS evening sees John Major fundraising in Glasgow for a silly hat party. It has all the makings of a disaster. Marquees are planned on the banks of the Clyde. Unfortunately, so are gales.



Major headache

Comedy hats will be handed out at the entrance, presumably in homage to Douglas Hogg and the PM's own appearance in 'trial headgear at the Khyber Pass earlier this year. By way of a challenge to any paparazzi, the order has come from No 10: no cameras.

Impressing the judges at this year's Miss Belgium beauty contest will require more than two hobbies and an intimate knowledge of nail-varnish, after a regional heat was won by an economics student. Sandrine Durrant, 19, was crowned Miss Brabant Wallon after giving a speech on the merits of a single European currency.

### Grey gay

ON THE stage at the Fringe nightclub in Brixton on Wednesday night was a young man in shorts, carrying a smorlek shouting "I'm gay and I work for the Treasury." Meet John Gillespie, Band C civil servant and enthusiastic entrant in the London heats of Mr Gay UK. Greasing up backstage before the show, Gillespie confessed that although he was concerned about what this might do to his promotion prospects, he was tired of the anonymity of Civil Service work and "always wanted to be famous".



Sandrine euro one

"He's 18kg, enjoys rowing, dancing and vandalism," said the compe. "His role model is ex-Take Thatter, Gary Barlow," and on came Gillespie in trunks and vest. He soon dispensed with the top, removed the smorlek from between his lips and let out a huge cathartic cry: "I work for the Treasury!" and it is cool. "He did not qualify for the next round."

P.H.S.



Lewington: way out





## ANKARA COUP FEVER

Warning time for Turkey and its allies

Turkey is a pivotal member of Nato. Its integrity and democracy are vital not only to regional stability but to the Atlantic alliance as a whole. Turkish democracy now looks increasingly imperilled. The Islamic Government of Necmettin Erbakan has embarked on a campaign to give Islam a more visible position in Turkish public life. This has alarmed many people, including politicians, who see a threat to the long-established secular Constitution. President Demirel, an influential political veteran, has made clear his concern. More ominously, the Turkish Army, which sees itself as a guardian of the Ataturk Constitution, is implacably opposed to the trend. It has already sent tanks through the capital's Islamic suburbs as a warning. Today Mr Erbakan has a crucial meeting with senior officers. Tension is running high and rumours are rife. The threat of a military coup is everywhere.

To dismiss the army's concern as bluster is to underestimate its power and growing dismay at the fumbling of Mr Erbakan's ill-matched coalition. Turkey's military establishment is far from happy. It had hopes, along with other weary voters, that the advent to power of the Welfare Party might lead to a breakthrough in the guerrilla war with the Kurds — a conflict that has taken more than 12,000 lives. Under an Islamic banner of unity, it was hoped that Mr Erbakan might be able to satisfy Kurdish political and cultural demands. No such thing has happened, and the war goes on.

The army has also looked with dismay at the Government's crass attempts to pursue an Islamic foreign policy with provocative visits by Mr Erbakan to Iran and Libya. These have weakened Turkey's influence in Washington and been used by the Greek lobby there to undermine Turkey's request for new weapons. As a result, Turkey is now subject to an undeclared weapons embargo. For the army, Nato is a source of strength

and pride; anything that weakens Turkey's position in the alliance is deeply resented.

European policy has been equally unsuccessful — although the Europeans are largely to blame. The worsening relations with Greece, the provocative Cypriot insistence on buying Russian missiles and the European Union's continued withholding of funds to offset Turkish losses from the customs union have all made the Government look weak and increased a sense of isolation in Ankara. Turkey, one of the earliest applicants for full EU membership, now sees itself being overtaken in the queue by 11 other applicants. And with Greece hauling on the brakes, the EU seems unwilling to offer Turkey even the face-saving guarantee that its case will be considered equally with the others.

Despite a long campaign against the Islamists by other political parties, voters took a chance on Welfare. They thought that nothing could be worse than the mess made by the traditional parties; and they believed that the army and any secular coalition partner would keep the Islamic trend under control. In the second they have been disappointed. High-profile rows such as those over the attempt to allow women civil servants to wear headscarves and a proposal to build a new mosque in Istanbul's main square have convinced many that the Government is encouraging Islamic fundamentalism and that Tansu Ciller, the junior coalition partner, has little power to stop it.

Yet no one wants the army to step in, as it did in 1960 and 1980. It would be a disastrous setback for Turkish democracy and encourage Islamic underground fanaticism. The economy is in better shape than in 1980 and the army itself knows the risk of intervention. President Demirel has no power to dismiss the Prime Minister. But he and the army officers can warn him of the dangers of his political course. For the sake of Turkey and the alliance, he should listen.

## CASH FOR ANSWERS

University funding should reflect research excellence

The days when only economics dons talked about money have long since passed. For Britain's universities, the issues of overall funding levels and the internal allocation between institutions now dominate academic life. The latest cash grants outlined by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) yesterday will doubtless spark further fury in the common rooms. The total amount available has been frozen in real terms, which will disappoint many but surprise few. On the other hand the Government has conceded rather greater delegation over decisions between capital and current expenditure, which is an overdue offer of flexibility.

The most intense scrutiny, though, will be placed on the individual totals awarded. This year those figures were intended to reflect the recently completed research assessment procedure. Universities were informed that their performance would be linked to scrutiny of their scholarly output. Such outside monitoring of standards has never been popular. Protests about the amount of additional paperwork and bureaucracy involved have considerable legitimacy. The accompanying charge that the whole concept of comparison was impossible had rather less to commend it.

Despite this off-expressed distaste, the financial inducements available appeared to have some impact. In aggregate, the numbers achieving higher grades from this external evaluation showed an encouraging increase from the 1992 equivalent. More impressive still were the number of departments that achieved the new, and welcome, five star highest rank indicating a standard of significant international excellence.

The sums awarded by the funding agency have followed the research exercise to some

extent but not completely. Institutions that showed a dramatic improvement have had part of their increase "moderated": that is, their gain has been clawed back to subsidise those who were judged to have made little or no progress over the past four years. This has been explained by the claim that dramatic shifts in financial settlements would be unduly disruptive on those who found their resources cut. As a consequence, University College, London will receive nearly £1.7 million less than otherwise; Oxford University just over £1 million, and Imperial College, London, over £500,000.

Had that money been transferred to those institutions that recently switched from polytechnic status it might be justified. Many of these new bodies have not yet had the opportunity to develop their potential as research centres. The real beneficiaries from this policy decision, however, include the Universities of Exeter, Liverpool, London and Manchester, which could not be considered disadvantaged or less than established by any stretch of the imagination. This is a simple case of the rules being altered to assist those whose relative performance was less impressive. The principle of rewarding excellence has been diluted to restore equity.

There seems little point in obliging higher education to endure such assessment if the results are then rewritten. It discriminates against those who have made an effort to improve and undermines the entire exercise. After the 1992 enterprise some version of redistribution endured for three years. This time, HEFCE has pledged that the cross-subsidy will stay in place for 12 months only. If the council is serious in its stated aim of investing in world-class research then it will not last a moment longer.

## MODERN MEDICI

Patron of pickled cows moves to Piccadilly

The most powerful Renaissance patrons supported their personal aesthetic judgments with large fortunes. The artists profited, and so did their backers. In Britain today, patronage has revived, but much of it rests in the hands of just one man: Charles Saatchi. Mr Saatchi has contributed more to the international recognition of young British artists than any public institution. Now his collections are to reach a larger audience in a show at the Royal Academy.

Other rich Britons collect art, though the pursuit is nothing like as common here as it is in America or Germany. But Sir Denis Mahon, who has built up a great collection of 17th-century Italian paintings, and Lord Lloyd-Webber, who has amassed a large body of Pre-Raphaelite and other Victorian art, have not in the process helped living painters. A patron is more than a collector: by his financial support, he ensures that the art which he appreciates will flourish.

Mr Saatchi has been buying modern British art for nearly 30 years. He has built a gallery in Boundary Road where the annual gallery of young British artists regularly attracts between 50,000 and 75,000 visitors. In its first year, which was 1992, it included Damien Hirst and Rachel Whiteread. It is *enfants terribles* of their generation. It is now seen as a barometer of success and as such of an event as a big opening at the Tate. And where Mr

Saatchi leads, the subsidised galleries follow. In making himself an arbiter of taste, he has been criticised for making one-way bets, for backing and buying artworks from which he is bound to make money, whatever happens. Presumably, in the best traditions of his craft, he does make money from his patronage. Yet taste is a fickle thing: there are huge financial risks in being the only big player in a field that could easily be abandoned for another.

Mr Saatchi's taste is not shared by all; indeed it is excoriated by many who see in it only kudos for the sensation-seeking. Not everyone will be happy that his artists will be legitimised by such an august institution as the Royal Academy. But the question of whether pickled cows should qualify as art is for critics, not collectors. It is they who are supposed to be arbiters of artistic merit. And let other patrons, with other tastes, vie too for the title of modern Medici.

The likes of Mr Hirst, Marc Quinn and Marcus Harvey have helped to make modern Britain celebrated around the world. The Royal Academy has caught the spirit of the times. Its Piccadilly galleries will be able to attract a more varied crowd than now makes the pilgrimage to Boundary Road. If people hate the work, so be it. And if Mr Saatchi increases the value of his collection by opening it up to wider view, good luck to him.

## Investment 'crisis' of London's Tube

From the Chief Executive of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Sir, Among the increasing number of suggested solutions to London's Tube investment crisis (reports, February 26) is the theory, endorsed by Labour, that a strategic authority would provide an effective voice with which to argue for sufficient funding levels. History suggests differently, however.

According to London Transport's own figures, the investment backlog in 1988 stood at £2 billion at today's prices — that was just two years after the abolition of the Greater London Council. Since then, far from getting worse, the backlog has been whittled away to £1.2 billion.

A strategic body of some description, which London's business community would warmly welcome but for different reasons, is only part of the solution to the present problems. Other elements include the effective management of London Transport, which already exists, and the political determination to ensure adequate investment funding, which clearly does not.

Whether or not the Tube is eventually privatised, investors will be happy to invest in a network, provided a commercial rate of return is forthcoming. London certainly needs a strategic body, but not in order to recruit investors; rather, it needs one to promote and defend its interests, to co-ordinate public policy more generally, and to ensure that policymaking in London becomes more transparent.

To our competitors in other world cities it can seem ludicrous that a city of London's magnitude, responsible for producing one fifth of the UK's GDP, lacks an accountable, transparent and effective means of formulating and co-ordinating policy.

It is also ludicrous that London's Tube system, which you rightly describe as "this marvel of Victorian engineering" (leading article, February 24), is abandoned to dilapidation. But a new government structure for London is not sufficient in itself to ensure this. It needs political will too.

Yours faithfully,  
SIMON SPERRY,  
Chief Executive, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry,  
33 Queen Street, EC4A,  
February 26.

From Mr Ilyd Harrington

Sir, It really is beyond belief that the Government, with Sir George Young cast once again as Pontius Pilate, is washing its capital investment failures away with a privatisation solution for London's Underground.

It has long been apparent, certainly to the City and its Lord Mayor, that for 60 years public investment and accountability proved to be a successful formula.

London now has the highest fares in Europe. No one can deny that the New York subway is cheaper and in many ways more reliable than London's.

A once-envied public utility should resume that role in the hands of local London government.

Yours faithfully,  
ILLYD HARRINGTON  
(Deputy Leader, GLC, 1973-85),  
16 Lea House, Salisbury Street, NW8,  
February 25.

From Mr John Norton

Sir, As an American tourist in London on two occasions within the past year, I urge the powers that be to heed Peter Riddell's advice on February 24, "Mind the funding gap", and to find the funding needed for the Tube.

From a tourist's perspective, Tube transport is a national — or at least a London — treasure. There is no better way to gain an appreciation for the characters of the many Londons that I have come to enjoy but never would have save for Tube transit. By contrast, the New York subways are the absolute last place one would wish to consign a tourist to.

I hope that the rider of modest means — foreign or native — is not forgotten in any scheme to privatise the system and that the ingenious simplicity of a fairly complex system will be maintained. Thousands of us look forward to renewing our acquaintance with London via its wonderful Tube.

Yours etc,  
JOHN NORTON,  
9 East High Street,  
Annville, PA 17003,  
February 25.

## Quite a quorum

From Mr Timothy M. Simon

Sir, Committees, in my experience, are a device invented to thwart decision-making and to provide people with a frequently undeserved forum; but the mind of even the most committed committophile must have boggled at the size of the funeral committee established for Deng Xiaoping — 459 members (report, February 21).

I admit that it appears to have operated with an efficiency which many smaller committees would be proud to emulate, maybe in time-honoured fashion it spawned a sub-committee.

Yours faithfully,  
T. M. SIMON,  
2 New Square, WC2,  
February 25.

Business letters, page 27

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### West Lothian question: flaws in the Ulster analogy

From Lord Blake, FBA

Sir, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead (letter, February 25), dealing with the "awkwardness" of the West Lothian question, concluded that on the analogy of Northern Ireland "it had better be accepted for Scotland (perhaps with some reduction in the number of Scottish seats at Westminster)".

Why "perhaps"? What possible justification could there be for Scotland to have both a devolved parliament in Edinburgh and 21 seats in Westminster when on a population basis it is entitled to only 57? Indeed, if the analogy of Northern Ireland is accepted, it should have even fewer.

As Mr Jonathan Caine pointed out in his letter of February 21, from 1920 until the abolition of the Stormont parliament in 1972 Northern Ireland had only 12 seats at Westminster. On a population basis it would have had 17. If Scotland is to have a devolved parliament its representation at Westminster ought to be reduced to 40.

Yours faithfully,  
BLAKE  
House of Lords,  
February 25.

From the Director of the Conservative Political Centre

Sir, It is pointless to follow Roy Jenkins in speculating about whether Anglo-Irish unity would have been secured if Gladstone's Home Rule Bills had passed. Gladstone knew

little of Ulster and cared less. He refused to discuss his plans seriously with members of his own party in the Province, and he dismissed unmistakable signs of widespread resistance in 1886 as "momentary ebullitions, which will pass away with the fears from which they spring". Any devolution scheme for Ireland which included the majority of Ulster's Unionists could never have become practical politics, and Irish nationalists were not willing to contemplate partition seriously before 1912.

Opponents of a Scottish parliament with legislative and tax-raising powers can easily withstand arguments based on wishful thinking about Irish history. But, like Irish Unionists a century ago, they need constructive alternatives. Under this Government they have been able to develop their ideas much more fully than their predecessors, curbed by unimaginative English Tories, were ever in a position to do.

The Union between Scotland and the rest of the country has been transformed by Michael Forsyth's reforms. Local government in Scotland has been put on a more democratic basis (something, incidentally, that Gladstone in the early 1880s flatly refused to do in Ireland). Most importantly, a form of devolution has been found that avoids the West Lothian question and all other difficulties, through the expansion of the Scottish Grand Committee. It can meet anywhere in Scotland; it can deal with all Scottish legis-

lation; and it can call all ministers (not just Scottish Office ministers) to account.

This Government has reconciled devolution and Union.

Yours faithfully,  
ALISTAIR B. COOKE,  
Director,  
Conservative Political Centre,  
32 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1,  
February 25.

From Dr H. A. Will

Sir, Lord Jenkins's perceptive letter does not do justice to the logic of Joseph Chamberlain's position in 1886 on the question of Irish representation at Westminster.

Why Chamberlain finally came to regard that representation as crucial was because, in his view, it would open the way for a future federal relationship between England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland on the lines, as he put it, of the relations between the Canadian provinces. That was his answer to the West Lothian question and to the wider and, for him, far more important question of preventing the ultimate separation of Ireland from the United Kingdom.

It is, whatever its practicality, the only logical constitutional settlement.

Yours faithfully,  
H. A. WILL,  
11 Russell Avenue,  
Hartley, Plymouth, Devon,  
February 26.

### Two of a kind

From Mr Ian C. Boulton

Sir, Libby Purves takes a welcome step away from sensationalism in her comment on the cloning of Dolly the lamb ("Like a wolf on the fold", February 25), but she nonetheless asserts that "if we prefer the illusory control of cloning to the glorious gamble of life, we will be interfering with nature in a way far more arrogant and damaging than ever before".

By definition, cloned animals are genetically identical, but the prospect of such organisms being routinely found in agriculture is extremely remote. Farming is a highly competitive business and irrespective of the inevitable reduction in cloning costs, it seems unlikely that tried and tested methods of reproduction will ever be superseded.

Any form of selective breeding has the potential to reduce the available gene pool. Ms Purves's concerns would be more appropriate if directed against the practices of modern farming than the scientific community.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN C. BOULTON,  
Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital,  
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,  
London Bridge, SE1,  
February 25.

From Mr G. S. Marvin

Sir, The sub-heading on Libby Purves's article suggests that cloning of animals reduces diversity. This is not necessarily so in nature as a whole. At a different level dandelions have been cloning for thousands of years.

Clones are capable of hybridising and producing new genotypes, which may be regarded as "species". In Britain alone some 130 different species are now recognised (*Dandelions*, A.J. Richards, Botanical Society of the British Isles, 1973).

Yours etc,  
STANLEY MARVIN,  
8 Aldenbrook Road,  
Droghda, Wexford, Wexford,  
February 25.

From Mr John Kay

Sir, An Edinburgh genetics laboratory has apparently created, for the first time ever, a cloned sheep.

Having just returned from a visit to North Wales, I have to say I find it very difficult to believe their work is unique.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN KAY,  
Hazelwood, Priory Road,  
West Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside,  
February 27.

From Mr K. L. Rawling

Sir, Perhaps we should bear in mind the words attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Never try to make anyone like yourself — you know, and God knows, that one of you is sufficient."

Yours etc,  
K. L. RAWLING,  
10 Somerville Terrace,  
Orley, West Yorkshire,  
February 26.

From Mrs J. Hadfield

Sir, How correct was the BBC, in a news programme last night, to describe the cloned sheep as "unique"?

Yours faithfully,  
J. F. HADFIELD,  
Yew Cottage,  
West Pennard, Somerset,  
February 25.

From Mr Paul D. Hale

Sir, Alan Shearer's unfortunate admission to hospital yet again (report, Sport, February 27) presents an opportunity. We have the technology, let's use it. Clone Alan Shearer now!

Yours faithfully,  
P. D. HALE,  
21 Wilson Street, EC2,  
February 27.

### Gulf War

That deterrent remains as potent to Israel's defence now as it did then. Revelation of the means and its precise capability can only constitute the gravest of threats to the nation's security. Acts of treason of similar gravity have led to the imposition of the death penalty in the United States and Great Britain.

Although one cannot criticise Mr Neil for publishing what amounted to a major scoop in *The Sunday Times*, one wonders whether he warned Mr Vanunu at the time of the likely consequences of his actions.

Mr Vanunu's rightful conviction, sentence and denial of a pardon receive the support not only of Israel's right-wing Likud but also of the Labour Opposition.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID HAROUNOFF  
4 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.

### Crime and punishment

From Mr Peter G. Smith

Sir, At one level Lord Rees-Mogg ("The Lords aren't soft on crime, just sensible", February 17) may be correct in his assertion that it would become more difficult to manage, in a rational way, the resources deployed in the prevention, detection and punishment of crime without some distinction between that which is petty and that which is serious (letters, February 18, 19, 22).

However, at another level, surely what the Home Office is attempting to do is to take some account of the feelings of victims of petty crime. In this respect, at least, the opinions of the man on top of the bus, much deprecated by Lord Rees-Mogg, are surely reasonably valid.

The cumulative effect of petty crime can have a devastating effect on the lives of the poorer members of our society. All too often we read of council estates and other conurbations where residents and their possessions are regularly subjected to the attentions of criminals, often from their own locality. In such areas many, particularly the elderly, are fearful of leaving their homes.

If I had an Old Master stolen I would be greatly saddened. But my financial loss would be ameliorated by my insurers. I would not be overcome by a pervasive sense of despair such as that which indicates the lives of the people cited above.

Yours faithfully,  
P. G. SMITH,  
Rainbow's End, Cock Lane,  
Southend-on-Sea,  
Essex, SSO,  
February 18.

From Mr Nick Eadon

Sir, There is a wealth of research evidence, supported by professionals in the field, that measures to reduce crime and criminality should be founded on programmes which firstly make crime harder to commit and secondly influence the motivation of offenders and potential offenders.

Harsher sentencing policy attracts cheap applause, fulfils the emotions and maybe wins elections; but it disregards reason, reality and the longer-term consequences of implementing such legislation.

Yours faithfully,  
NICK EADON  
(Probation Officer),  
Suffolk Probation Service,  
34 Foundation Street,  
Ipswich, Suffolk,  
February 20.

### Dietary differences

From Professor Emeritus  
W. G. Chaloner, FRS, and  
Professor J. B. Pridham

Sir, It would be difficult to find scientific evidence to support many of the recommendations made in the two articles on natural ways to achieve good health (February 17 and 18). The value of fruits and vegetables as part of a balanced diet is not in doubt. However, we would urge caution to the point of consulting a medical practitioner in the case of some of the listed regimens, particularly the "monofasts".

For example, a 21-day monofast of watermelons would provide only a very small fraction of the normal dietary requirements and for some, perhaps many, individuals would not be recommended.

### Quarantine reform

From Lady Fretwell

Sir, Quarantine reform has been postponed until after the election because of alleged fears among voters about change (report, February 24).

A government consultative paper which has now been suppressed could have helped to inform the public and calm exaggerated fears. What conclusion is one to draw about a policy which cannot withstand publication of scientific fact?

This means that thousands of British families abroad have had their hopes dashed, 10,000 animals will

continue to suffer unnecessarily in quarantine and over 100 will die there every year.

What political calculation can justify a block on consideration of safer alternatives?

Yours sincerely,  
MARY FRETWELL  
(Chairman), Passports for Pets,  
20 Seymour Road, SW18,  
February 25.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.







## OBITUARIES

## BRIGADIER DAME MARY TYRWHITT

Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, DBE, TD, Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps, 1949-50, died on February 13 aged 93. She was born on December 27, 1903.

THE founder-director of the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) when it was formed in 1949, Mary Tyrwhitt played an inspirational role in ensuring the future of women in the British Army. The WRAC sprang out of the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) which had proved itself in the years of the Second World War.

But in the postwar period it was not a foregone conclusion that a women's corps had a role to play. At a time of uncertainty and doubt for the ATS, it was her advice to the Army Council and her faith in a continuing women's role in the Army that helped to bring the WRAC into being.

Although she did not herself join the ATS until she was almost 35, Mary Joan Caroline Tyrwhitt came

from a thoroughly martial family albeit naval, not military. Her father, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Reginald Tyrwhitt, had made his reputation during the First World War as commander of the celebrated Harwich Force of cruisers and destroyers, which was renowned for its buccannery spirit in constant clashes with the enemy.

Her brother, Admiral Sir St John Tyrwhitt, who died at the relatively early age of 56, was a Second World War destroyer commander and Second Sea Lord from 1959 to 1961. Mary Tyrwhitt was, therefore, brought up much in the traditions of the Senior Service, and as a young girl she travelled the world with her parents.

As war clouds gathered, and it was apparent that, as they had in the First World War, women were going to have to play a role again, she joined the ATS on November 11, 1938, twenty years to the day after the Armistice. The ATS had been established two months earlier on September 9, its purpose, to

provide women auxiliaries to release Territorial soldiers for active service in the event of war.

She soon proved herself to be an officer of outstanding ability. Her first task was to raise a platoon at Cranbrook, Kent, which was affiliated to The Royal East Kent Regiment (The Buffs).

On the outbreak of war she was in charge, first, of general duties, personnel and, early in 1940, was appointed company commander in charge of cooks, clerks and orderlies at Chatham. She was then appointed to be an instructor at the first ATS Junior Officers' School.

This was followed by appointments as chief instructor and the commandant of the NCOs' School (then located at Royal Holloway College in Egham, Surrey) with the rank of Chief Commander. After senior appointments on the staff and on regimental duty, she became Deputy Director ATS as a Controller, and in 1946 took over from Dame Leslie Whately as Director.

She was immediately faced with the responsibility of advising the Army Council on the possible formation of a new corps of women as part of the Regular Army. It had to be decided to what extent this new corps should be governed by the normal regulations of the Army. There was a good deal of discussion, in which Mary Tyrwhitt played an important part, and it was not until February 1, 1949, that the new corps came into being. Senior Controller, Mary Tyrwhitt became the first Director, Women's Royal Army Corps, in the rank of Brigadier, retiring a year later.

She was appointed OBE in 1946 and DBE in 1949. She was awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1950. She held the appointment of Hon ADC to King George VI from 1949 to 1950.

She retired in 1951, but remained as a member of the WRAC Council for the following three years and also became President of the ATS Dinner Club — an appointment

which she enjoyed for many years.

She had served in the Army for more than 12 years and in her retirement joined the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and became an assistant regional administrator in the Southern Region until 1965. She lived for many years in Pewsey, Wiltshire, before moving finally to Tiddington near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Always interested in the progress of the WRAC, she kept in touch with the corps throughout the years. In 1988, although by then in her eighties, she was very happy to become ATS representative on the committee formed to arrange the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Service.

In that year she travelled up to London for the many meetings, insisted on doing all the tiring walking around the Barbican and gave her fellow members of the committee the greatest pleasure by her unfailing interest, enthusiasm and humour.

She was unmarried.



## NUCCIO BERTONE



Guided missile on four wheels: Bertone's Ferrari Dino 308GT of 1976

Nuccio Bertone, Italian car body designer, died in Turin on February 26 aged 82. He was born on July 23, 1914.

WITH his characteristic wedge-shaped body shells, the designs of Nuccio Bertone were familiar to several generations of the world's best known high-performance cars from the 1950s onwards. The list of manufacturers for which he designed the carrozzeria (coachwork) reads like a roll of the most famous names in the world of Italian motor sport, though he also designed car bodies for Opel, Volvo and Citroën.

Flat, Bertone, Alfa Romeo, and Lancia were all among his customers at one time or another. He had also created car bodies for Opel, Volvo and Citroën.

Nuccio Bertone was born into the car body-making world in the heart of the Italian automotive industry.

Turin. His father had founded his firm Bertone Carrozzeria two years before his son's birth, and as soon as he was able, Bertone junior entered the business. At that stage the company was a family coachwork firm, but after the war Nuccio Bertone set about transforming it from a business conducted on an artisan



scale into a sophisticated industrial plant, capable of operating in international markets.

He gradually took car design away from the rounded forms that were the norm in the postwar years to produce something more angular. His first important body design, the Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint, appeared in 1954; only 500 were manufactured for the first production run, but the design became so popular that in the end 40,000 were built.

After that, Bertone was into his stride with the Fiat 850 Spider and the Fiat 1100, which showed his angular characteristics. The evolution of the Bertone style continued from the late 1960s onwards with the Ferrari Dino 308 GT4, and in the series of Lamborghinis — Miura, Espada, Countach — high-speed guided missiles on four wheels, seen to best advantage in the glamorous and dramatic setting of the *corse*

between Ventimiglia and Nice. The Lancia Stratos, which won the World Rally Championship three years running, was another Bertone standard.

In the 1970s and 1980s Bertone was also involved with Volvo, for which he designed the 262C and the 780. Finally, in the 1990s came his designs for Citroën: the ZX, Xantia and Berlingo. For Opel he had been involved with the Kadet convertible.

From a small family firm Bertone grew and diversified until today the group — which includes the companies Carrozzeria Bertone, Stile Bertone, Tecnodisegno and Socar-ics — employs 1,500 workers and has an annual turnover of £450 million (£200 million).

Bertone was married with two daughters. One, Jeanne, an architect by training, is in the firm's creative division; the other, Barbara, an economist, is on the production side.

## THEODORE REDPATH

Theodore Redpath, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, died on January 30 aged 83. He was born on August 17, 1913.

A DEVOTED teacher, Theodore Redpath was a distinguished representative of the Cambridge English school. He worked hard and successfully to develop English studies at Trinity, where he was the first Fellow elected in his subject, while also taking his full share in general college and university business.

He exemplified — in an age of increasing specialisation — the humanist ideal of the scholar with all-round interests and abilities. He believed that all forms of art and thought could attract a developing mind, and that all branches of literature could contribute to one another. Above all, he influenced his students deeply because his learning was coupled with strong intellectual integrity and with the belief that literature, English literature in particular, could and should contribute to the enrichment of life.

Robert Theodore Holmes Redpath was born in London and educated in Cambridge. From the Leys School he went to St Catherine's College, which he entered with a Choral Exhibition, to read English. In 1934 he took a starred first in Part II of the Tripos, as well as sharing the Charles Oldham Shakespeare Scholarship. For postgraduate research, however, he turned to philosophy, gaining his PhD in 1940 with a thesis on Leibniz, under the supervision of C. D. Broad.

After his army years, from 1940 to 1946 (which included service in Intelligence), he considered making his career in the law, and was called to the Middle Temple Bar in 1948. But several colleges made heavy demands on him for supervision in English at this period; and in 1950 he was appointed by Trinity to the first teaching fellowship in English at the college. He became a university assistant lecturer in 1951, and a full lecturer in 1954.

He served the university twice as Senior Proctor, in 1954 and 1959, and was a college tutor from 1960 to 1970, besides undertaking other administrative responsibilities for the English Faculty and the Cambridge Union. But it was characteristic of him that he could, in addition, find time and energy for a variety of other interests and pursuits.

He was very sociable and hospitable. He was an unusually gifted linguist, widely read in foreign literatures and

widely travelled in Europe, with a particular attachment to France and Spain. He was also a skilful pianist, a keen gardener and an energetic player of games, notably real tennis, which he helped to foster in the university.

As a student, Redpath was influenced by his admiration for I. A. Richards and F. R. Leavis; and he took pride in the acquaintances he formed, as a young man, with Russell, Wittgenstein and G. E. Moore. But he never behaved as anyone's disciple, or restricted himself to a single track of research.

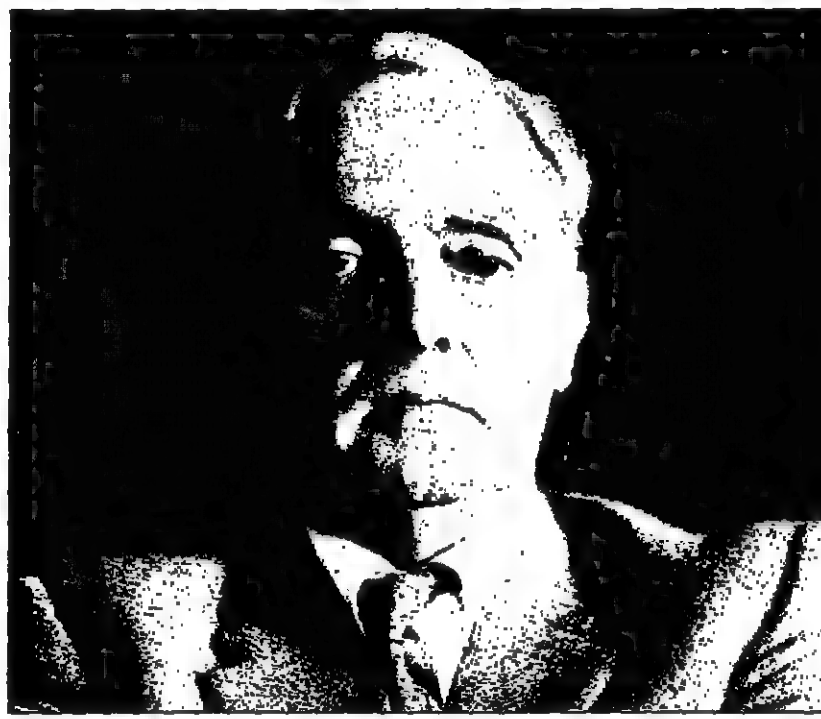
His early training in the close analysis of poetic language is evident in his first book (1956), his annotated edition of *Donne's Songs and Sonnets* (which he later revised and improved), and similarly, in his edition, with W. G. Ingram, of Shakespeare's *Sonnets* (1964) — though both works show a concern with historical scholarship that might not then have been thought of as typical of "Cambridge English". They are both editions of lasting value to students.

Another of his leading interests, within the history of criticism, is shown by his thoroughly documented introductions to two collections of contemporary reviews

of the English Romantics, the first edited with Patricia Hodgart in 1964 and the second in 1973. He continued to write articles and give papers on philosophical subjects, particularly aesthetics; and he used his knowledge of languages to good effect. He drew on modern Russian scholarship for his short but perceptive book on Tolstoy (1960); and he took pains to make himself familiar with recent philosophical research for his translation of Sophocles, a labour of love.

It was a mark of the esteem in which he was held that Trinity gave a special concert in honour of his 80th birthday. But Redpath's years of retirement were far from passive. He became an entrepreneur in the wine trade; he took on visiting professorships at several universities in France, Germany, America and Japan; he published a lively personal memoir of his friendship with Wittgenstein and a study of Broad's philosophy; he had been working on an analysis of *Hamlet* criticism and more recently on revisions of his translation of Sophocles when he was overtaken by his final illness.

He is survived by his wife, the pianist Sarah Campbell-Taylor, whom he married in 1964, and a son and two daughters.



## PROFESSOR ROGER TAYLER

Professor Roger Tayler, OBE, FRS, astrophysicist, died of myeloma on January 23 aged 67. He was born on October 25, 1929.

ROGER TAYLER'S PhD thesis on stellar evolution contained some of the first realistic models of how stars evolve as a result of the fusion of hydrogen into helium in their interiors. He obtained all his results on a hand-operated mechanical calculator, taking a month for a series of models which would be produced in a few minutes today.

After a year as a Commonwealth Fund Fellow at Princeton and CalTech, he moved to Harwell in 1955, where he continued to work on problems related to nuclear fusion. At that time there were high

hopes of recreating in the laboratory the same conditions of high temperature and density as occur naturally inside stars and of obtaining a limitless supply of clean energy. The problem then, as now, was to contain the hot plasma without melting the container. Confinement by magnetic fields, which would hold the plasma away from the walls, was believed to be the answer, but the magnetic plasma proved unexpectedly unstable. Independently of parallel work in America and Russia, Tayler wrote a series of fundamental papers studying the problem of stabilising the fields; much of his work remains relevant today.

Tayler was educated at Solihull School, and Clare College, Cambridge, graduating in 1950 and staying on to work

for his PhD under Hermann Bondi. In 1961 Fred Hoyle persuaded him to return from Harwell to Cambridge, where he was a Fellow of Corpus Christi College.

During this time, he collaborated with Hoyle and with Stephen Hawking on problems of nuclear astrophysics and cosmology. He developed an abiding interest in the origin of all the chemical elements, and was present in stressing the sensitivity of the amount of light elements produced in the early Universe to the precise value of the neutron half-life and to the number of types of neutrino.

Tayler was appointed Professor of Astronomy at the University of Sussex in 1967. He was an outstanding Director of the Astronomy Centre for three six-year stints.

His early work on magnetic stability in hot plasmas was later applied in a very interesting way to magnetic stars, and he continued to work on stellar evolution, nuclear astrophysics and cosmology. Most recently, he turned to a study of the chemical evolution of galaxies.

Tayler was successively secretary, treasurer and president of the Royal Astronomical Society. He was appointed OBE in 1990 and elected FRS in 1995.

His many books, especially *The Stars: Their Structure and Evolution* (1970) and *Galaxies: Structure and Evolution* (1978), were much used by several generations of students. His presidential lecture was turned into a book, *The Sun as a Star* (1996). He is survived by his wife Moya.

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**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

## THE KING AND QUEEN IN THE CITY.

OPENING OF THE NEW CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

The ceremony of opening the new building of the Central Criminal Court was performed yesterday by the King. The building, it will be remembered, supersedes that familiarly known as the Old Bailey, and stands upon the site of what was once the frowning and fortress-like structure of the famous Newgate Prison. As the chief criminal court in the country, and one with a long and remarkable history, a special interest at all times attaches to the Old Bailey, but the proceedings of yesterday, graced as they were by the presence of the King and Queen, possessed a significance which it would be difficult to overstate.

The spectacular part of the proceedings was very impressive, notwithstanding the fact that the new building does not lend itself well to such a ceremony as that which was performed within its walls on this occasion. The halls — for there are two of them — in which the spectators assembled, have been constructed with a view to the convenient transaction of business, and not to the accommodation of a large number of visitors intent upon witness-

## ON THIS DAY

February 28, 1907

The architect was Edward Mountford; the figure of Justice above the dome and the sculptured figures above the main entrance were the work of F.W. Pomeroy. The cost was about £300,000. During the Second World War the building was twice hit by bombs.

ing the details of a stately pageant... Of the interior itself one can only say that, far from being gloomy and severe, it is rich to the point of magnificence. Its floors, walls, and staircases are constructed of costly marbles and alabaster...

The address from the Corporation was then read by the Recorder... The Lord Mayor, having received the address from the Recorder, knelt and delivered it to the King. The King, in reply, said: It is a source of great gratification to the Queen and myself to preside at the opening of

the new Central Criminal Court... The building which we shall presently examine with the greatest interest is not only of handsome exterior, but is, I am confident, admirably fitted in every way for the purpose for which it is designed. The great increase in the population of the metropolitan area which has taken place in the last half century renders the old buildings far too confined for the proper performance of the duties for which they were at one time adequate; and this noble edifice, erected by the City of London entirely at its own expense, will, I am sure, amply fulfil its high purpose by giving convenience and dignity to the administration of justice in the interests, not only of the inhabitants of its immediate district, but of the vast urban population that has accumulated in the adjacent counties. The old buildings which have now been replaced were, however, of high historical interest, for they witnessed during the century of their existence a change in the administration of criminal justice far greater than has taken place in any preceding century. The barbarous penal code which was deemed necessary 100 years ago has gradually been replaced in the progress towards a higher civilization by laws breathing a more humane spirit and aiming at a nobler purpose. (Cherry)...

هكذا من رايهم



NEWS

Ulster deal to protect Major

The Ulster Unionists threw John Major the lifeline that should keep him in power until May 1 after the Government agreed to increase the powers of the special parliamentary committee that monitors Northern Ireland.

The deal was announced by the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, who made clear that he saw no point in trying to force an early election.

Tebbit accuses 'tacky' Heseltine

Michael Heseltine has been accused by a former Cabinet colleague of conduct that is "tasteless, tacky if not dishonourable and self-centered beyond even the call of his profession".

Rugby defence

A rugby union star who challenged his suspension won a court ruling that opens the way to similar actions against sporting bodies whose decisions affect players' livelihoods.

Cloning inquiry

Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, asked officials to investigate whether there was a need for joint action to regulate genetics.

Jury challenge

Michael Howard embarked on another confrontation with the legal profession by proposing curbs on the right to trial by jury and other changes to the criminal justice system.

Open prisoner

Valerio Vicoli, the man behind the Knightsbridge safe deposit robbery, told how he swapped a cell at Parkhurst for a life of virtual freedom under the Italian prison system.

Health costs

A judge rejected accusations by the families of four haemophilic boys that health authorities had unlawfully refused to fund treatment with an expensive blood clotting agent.

Education costs

Leading universities will have to forfeit £12 million in grant to reduce cuts at less successful institutions.

Flying visit down memory lane

Ezer Weizman left home in Haifa in 1942 to join the RAF in Egypt. Yesterday the Israeli President returned as a guest to RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire which he described as the pinnacle of his three-day visit to Britain.

Artistic image

A sculpture incorporating nine pints of an artist's blood, a gory image of dismembered limbs and a portrait of the Moors murderer Myra Hindley are to be shown at the Royal Academy.

Turkey warning

A room of angry generals will today warn Necmettin Erbakan, Turkey's pro-Islamic Prime Minister, not to tamper with Turkey's pro-Western character.

Clinton question

As the FBI broadens its investigations into President Clinton's fundraising, the most asked question in Washington was why one of his oldest allies had split the beans.

Wagner family row

Two angry great-grandchildren of Richard Wagner have begun a new round in the long soap opera family feud over the legacy of the German composer.

TV 'corruption'

France's leading television station, TF1, was caught up in corruption allegations as its chairman was charged with misuse of corporate funds.

Royal debate

The House of Orange, one of the most popular and placid monarchies in Europe, is facing a republican assault from a powerful group of Dutch businessmen and nobles.



Diane Blood with her parents in London yesterday after she heard that she can take her husband's sperm abroad. Page 1

MARKS & SPENCER

Mark & Spencer: Marks & Spencer plans to open £400 million of stores around the world over the next three years.

Films: Carlton Communications, the TV company, has emerged as one of the leading contenders for Rank's film distribution business.

Cost of demerger: British Gas lost £571 million in its last full year of trading before demerger. Restructuring costs were blamed.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 9.9 points to close at 4339.2. Meanwhile, sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 98.6 to 98.2 after it went down from \$1.6338 to \$1.6275 and from DM2.7537 to DM2.7500.

FOOTBALL

Football: Dave Bassett left Crystal Palace to become general manager of Nottingham Forest. Stuart Pearce will continue as Forest's caretaker player-coach.

Rugby union: Brian Ashton, formerly with Bath, received an unprecedented six-year appointment as coach to Ireland, a period that will cover the next two World Cups.

Golf: José María Olazábal had a 69, four strokes behind the leaders, in the Dubai Desert Classic. It was his first competitive round for 17 months.

Rugby league: Unless a possible legal challenge is successful, Central Park, the home of Wigan since 1902, looks set to become a supermarket.

BOLD BARD

Bold Bard: Benedict Nightingale enjoys an RSC production of the rarely seen *Cymbeline* that effectively dispels any doubts about the quality of acting.

Faust told: In Hamlet's Hamlet, Jeremy Kingston ponders one of the deepest questions of our time - whether humanity? - but gets little enlightenment from a revised version of *Faust*.

Wobbly cycle: The 21st programme was nearly the most striking thing about *Passages*, a song cycle performance with pretensions to being a "happening" at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Pop promise: Biggest album disappointment of the week is U2's *Pop*, which promises much but doesn't deliver.

HOT TICKET

Hot ticket: Valerie Grove interviews Sam Mendes, a young man full of charm and quick intelligence, about his speedy rise to the top in the world of the theatre.

Cool capital: It takes more than a few headlines and outlandish venues to be convinced that London is really swinging again.

Teaching headteachers: The ambitious idea of giving lessons in the art of being a head should include training in accountancy and computer skills.

League tables that lie: Why a village school in Essex took the decision to challenge the Government in the High Court.

LOOK AT OUR PUBLIC SECTOR

Look at our public sector, which still remains one of the most important in the industrialised world. The 'elite' have instituted for their greater profit a society of unlimited responsibility in which we are all bound.

The list of folks the president had in for coffees and sleep-overs and the rest are pretty impressive. There are people on the list whose presence not even the White House is happy to defend any more crooks.

Bag men, people with schemes to sell if only the right federal agency was interested.

Washington Post

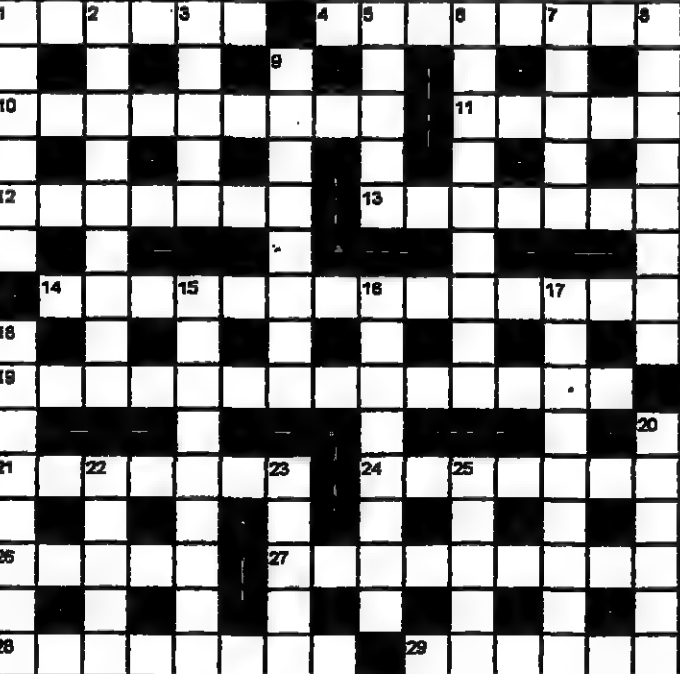
IN THE TIMES

1015. Our magazine for young readers is offering a chance to win tickets to *Space Jam*.

DIRECTORY

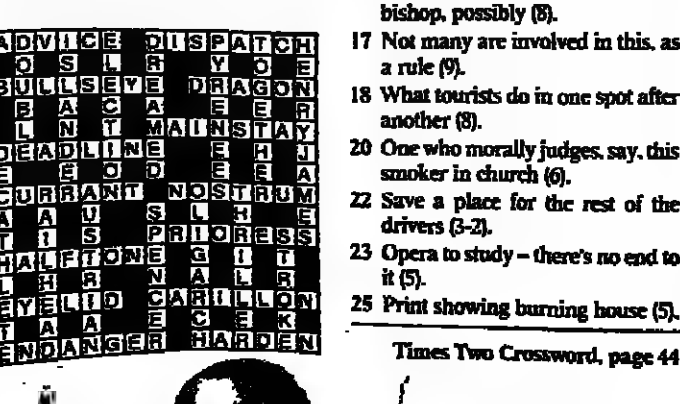
Hailing the comeback of the British film industry

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,415



- ACROSS
- 1 Tom heading East to find goddess (6).
  - 4 Wide range of crumpets cooked (6).
  - 10 Incense little woman with three sons a moment after (4,5).
  - 11 Author left cover (5).
  - 12 Be inclined to muffle beat that's noisy (7).
  - 13 Sea creature found where boat may be moored (7).
  - 14 Peerless debating chamber (5,2,7).
  - 19 Group that may be produced by listing an elite (1,4).
  - 21 Fool jester's doubled up? (7).
  - 24 Recover pound pinched by lout (7).
  - 26 Old writers found in dusty libraries (5).
- DOWN
- 1 Greeting sailor's act of piracy (6).
  - 2 Search for way to throw a fight (4,5).
  - 3 Examine a protective coat (5).
  - 5 First of patients agreed to be given a jab (5).
  - 6 Claim this arrangement is way to control budget (4,5).
  - 7 Open up headless fish (5).
  - 8 Parts of motorway followed by East European citizen (6).
  - 9 After six runs is dismissed, upsetting top players (6).
  - 15 Thus reduced his time for game of cards (4,5).
  - 16 Church manse's rebuilt for bishop, possibly (6).
  - 17 Not many are involved in this, as a rule (9).
  - 18 What tourists do in one spot after another (8).
  - 20 One who morally judges, say, this smoker in church (6).
  - 22 Save a place for the rest of the drivers (3,2).
  - 23 Opera to study - there's no end to it (5).
  - 25 Print showing burning house (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,414



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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Courtney 14C (57F); lowest day temp: Llanelli 5C (41F); highest night temp: Llanelli 3C (37F); lowest night temp: Llanelli 1C (34F); highest wind speed: Jersey, 5 m/s

General

A band of cloudy weather with outbreaks of rain will work south across all parts of England and Wales during the day. It will be followed by brighter conditions and showers, the showers mainly in the west.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be bright with blustery or squally showers in the west, and sleet or snow on hills. It will be dry with bright periods in eastern areas. Persistent cloud and rain is expected in northwest Scotland and Northern Ireland later in the day.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England: bright morning, then patchy rain from north. Winds fresh or strong, southwest. Mid. Max 12C (54F).

E England, Central N England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: patchy rain or showers then bright and mostly dry, sunny intervals.

Wales, W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: rather cloudy, rain or drizzle clearing. Isolated showers later. Winds fresh or strong, westerly. Chilly. Max 9C (48F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland: cloudy, rain or showers, windy on hills. Winds strong to gale, southwest. Chilly. Max 9C (48F).

Orkney, Shetland: rain at first then showers and bright intervals. Winds strong to gale, westerly. Cold. Max 7C (45F).

N Ireland: bright or sunny intervals, turning showery then rain later. Winds strong to gale, southwest. Cold. Max 9C (48F).

Outlook: rain or showers, mainly in the North. Becoming more settled in the South.

Winds strong, gusty, south-west. Chilly. Max 10C (50F).

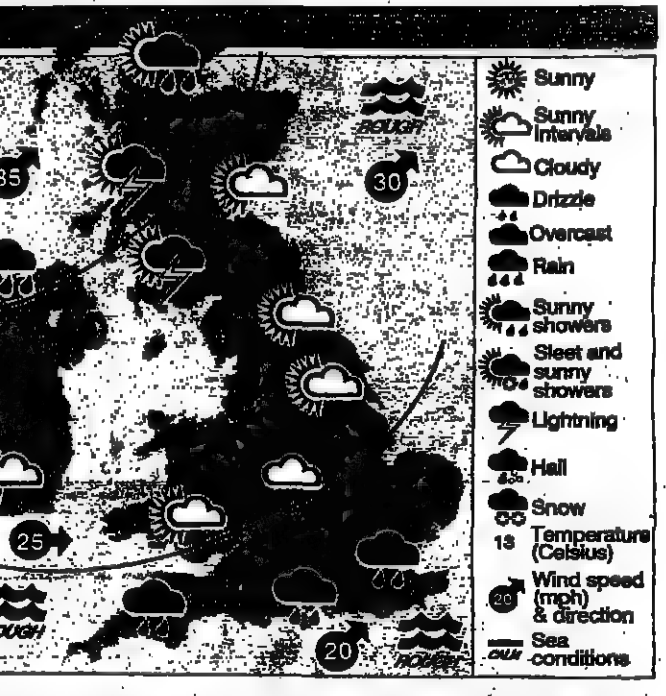
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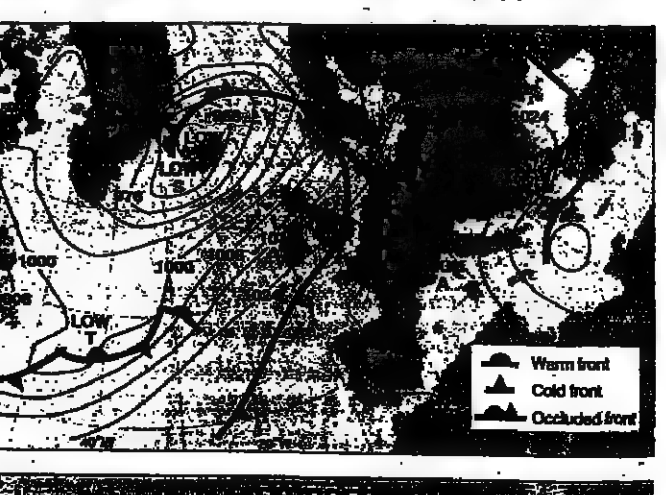
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Changes to chart below from noon: low P and S will merge and drift northeast, slowly filling. Low T will deepen and sweep northeast. High A will gradually decline in situ



Changes to chart below from noon: low P and S will merge and drift northeast, slowly filling. Low T will deepen and sweep northeast. High A will gradually decline in situ

Today

	AM	HT	PM	HT		AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	05.02	6.8	17.24	6.8	London	05.03	6.8	17.18	6.8
Abbeville	04.38	3.8	16.53	3.8	Liverpool	02.15	8.7	14.29	8.7
Accrington	02.15	11.1	22.00	11.1	Lewes	02.23	2.4	12.29	2.4
Belfast	02.07	3.2	14.33	3.2	Manchester	02.00	4.5	15.26	4.5
Cardiff	10.07	11.1	22.02	10.7	Milton Keynes	05.24	0.3	21.46	0.3
Doncaster	01.53	8.3	14.10	8.3	Newcastle	08.18	6.3	20.39	6.3
Edinburgh	01.53	8.3	14.10	8.3	Newquay	08.18	6.3	20.39	6.3
Exeter	01.53	8.3	14.10	8.3	Nottingham	08.18	6.3	20.39	6.3
Gloucester	01.53	8.3	14.10	8.3	Perth	07.44	5.0	20.04	5.0
Greenock	03.51	8.1	15.52	4.7	Portsmouth	02.24	1.7	22.24	1.7
Hemel Hempstead	02.58	3.7	15.19	3.6	Sheffield	02.09	4.4	14.36	4.4
Holyhead	01.29	8.1	13.42	8.1	Southampton	01.50	4.2	14.04	4.1
Hull (Albert D)	02.37	8.0	21.51	8.0	Swansea	02.56	8.8	21.47	8.8
King's Lynn	09.07	8.3	21.26	8.0	Torquay	07.02	4.8	15.15	4.8
		5.5	21.45	6.0	Walsingham	02.50	3.8	15.12	3.8

All times GMT. Heights in metres

Today

	AM	HT	PM	HT		AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	05.02	6.8	17.24	6.8	London	05.03	6.8	17.18	6.8
Abbeville	04.38	3.8	16.53	3.8	Liverpool	02.15	8.7	14.29	8.7
Accrington	02.15	11.1	22.00	11.1	Lewes	02.23	2.4	12.29	2.4
Belfast	02.07	3.2	14.33	3.2	Manchester	02.00	4.5	15.26	4.5
Cardiff	10.07	11.1	22.02	10.7	Milton Keynes	05.24	0.3	21.46	0.3
Doncaster	01.53	8.3	14.10	8.3	Newcastle	08.18	6.3	20.39	6.3
Edinburgh	01.53	8.3	14.10	8.3	Newquay	08.18	6.3	20.39	6.3
Exeter	01.53	8.3	14.10	8.3	Nottingham	08.18	6.3	20.39	6.3
Gloucester	01.53	8.3	14.10	8.3	Perth	07.44	5.0	20.04	5.0
Greenock	03.51	8.1	15.52	4.7	Portsmouth	02.24	1.7	22.24	1.7
Hemel Hempstead	02.58	3.7	15.19	3.6	Sheffield	02.09	4.4	14.36	4.4
Holyhead	01.29	8.1	13.42	8.1	Southampton	01.50	4.2	14.04	4.1
Hull (Albert D)	02.37	8.0	21.51	8.0	Swansea	02.56	8.8	21.47	8.8
King's Lynn	09.07	8.3	21.26	8.0	Torquay	07.02	4.8	15.15	4.8
		5.5	21.45	6.0	Walsingham	02.50	3.8	15.12	3.8

All times GMT. Heights in metres



M&S lays

Abbey formal

ABN Amro d offering a j

RTZ-CRA



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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28 1997

## M&S lays out plans for £400m overseas shops spree

By Sarah Cunningham

MARKS & SPENCER is to open its largest franchise store next month and is planning an ambitious £400 million programme of store openings around the world over the next three years.

The new 31,000 sq ft Istanbul store is the second to be opened there and is four times the size of the existing store. It will open on March 21 and will be run by Turkpetrol

Holdings, M&S's Turkish franchise partner. Keith Oates, deputy chairman of Marks & Spencer, said: "We have really pressed the accelerator on overseas expansion." In Europe, new openings are likely in Luxembourg and Belgium, while in Germany, where the first Marks & Spencer store opened last year, Mr Oates foresees 20 to 30 stores, with one in each major city.

Openings and store expansions are also set to continue in the UK and, because it prefers to own the freehold on its UK stores, spending on expansion is set to remain higher in the UK than abroad.

Overseas, the company is studying the Latin American market. First openings there are likely to be in Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Peru, followed possibly by Mexico. Taiwan is under consideration and, three years after deciding it was too expensive, a team has gone to Japan

to look at possible sites. The company has also opened an office in Shanghai. But Mr Oates said that it is not to move into China too soon, and not before customers have sufficient spending power.

Mr Oates, who last night delivered the annual UK Innovation Lecture, which is sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Confederation of British Industry and others, told the audience that Marks & Spencer is likely to have 120 franchise stores in 32 countries in four years from now.

## Abbey National to table formal bid for ScotAm

By Robert Miller  
BANKING  
CORRESPONDENT

ABBEY National, the retail high street bank that yesterday reported a 20 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £1.3 billion, will today table its formal bid for Scottish Amicable, the mutual insurer.

Lord Tugendhat, chairman of the building society-turned bank, said: "We will be submitting a firm proposal. The next stage will be a discussion period, with final binding proposals to be submitted by a deadline in mid-March. An announcement is likely towards the end of March."

The Abbey chairman declined to say how much his bid was worth but it is believed that it has been raised from its initial sighting shot of £1.4 billion to nearer the rival offer from the Prudential of £1.9 billion. NatWest announced this week that it had withdrawn from bidding because the price was too high.

Abbey National, which lifted its final dividend to 17.4p, payable on May 6, to give a 20 per cent rise in the full-year payout to 26.1p, believes that its "Scottish" card could win the day and more than double its funds under management to £22 billion.



Profitable partnership: Peter Birch, left, chief executive of Abbey National, and Lord Tugendhat, chairman, yesterday

the bid were to fail the Abbey indicated that it would look elsewhere and market speculation has it that its next target could be Norwich Union, which plans to make its stock market debut in the summer.

In 1996 the Abbey saw earnings per share increase by 16 per cent to 59.8p, but that was excluding the £61 million integration costs arising from last year's takeover of the National & Provincial Building Society (N&P). The target of driving up to half of the

group's profits from businesses outside of the core savings and loan market by the year 2000 continued on track at around 42 per cent. The consumer credit division chipped in a 100 per cent profit increase at £98 million, while life assurance business was up 44 per cent to £151 million and Treasury and offshore managed an 18 per cent hike to £256 million.

On the more traditional front the Abbey increased the number of bank accounts by about 113,000, to 1.6 million, and since the launch of its own-branded credit card in February last year has opened 115,000 accounts, added to which are some 331,000 former N&P accounts.

After the co-operation agreement signed last November with Safeway, the UK's third-largest retailer, to give access to the supermarket's 6 million ABC loyalty card holders, the Abbey will next week launch a new initiative linked to Safeway's card holders. Lord

Tugendhat said: "This will be followed by a debit card, a credit card, and eventually by in-store banking. The arrangement will be a key factor in substantially increasing our market share of banking, credit and debit card customers by 1999."

The market has come to expect "solid" results from the Abbey and the shares closed up 4.4p last night, at 768p.

Pennington, page 25  
City Diary, page 27

## Societies Bill set to be law before election

By Robert Miller

THE long-delayed Building Societies Bill is finally to be laid before Parliament today and is expected to become law before the general election.

With the backing of Mike O'Brien, Shadow Economic Secretary to the Treasury, the Bill, which will give building societies more freedom to expand into new areas such as general insurance, is expected to pass through the Commons unopposed.

Labour, however, will put forward an amendment to have a clause inserted on a two-year rule to discourage so-called "carpetbaggers" from making a quick profit should a society shed its mutual status and become a bank.

Mr O'Brien said: "We want to stop mere speculators from benefiting from conversions and that is why we think only members of two or more years' standing should receive bonuses. On the question of conversion, that it is a matter for members."

The most controversial clause in the Bill, put forward by Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, concerns the five-year protection against hostile takeovers afforded to societies that be-

come public companies. The new Bill will remove that protection, but only if a new bank makes a takeover bid for "any authorised financial institution".

Christopher Rodrigues, the chief executive of the Bradford & Bingley, which welcomed the Bill, said: "We do not see why converted societies should enjoy a protection which no other public company is afforded."

Brian Davis, the chief executive of the Nationwide, which is soon to become the United Kingdom's largest building society, said: "When it becomes law, the new Building Societies Act will benefit millions of customers."

"It will enable Nationwide, and all other building societies committed to remaining mutual, to continue to provide strong competition which benefits consumers."

Mr Davis added: "Importantly, it will also remove the unfair anomaly which currently allows the converting societies to embark upon an aggressive acquisition programme, whilst at the same time protecting them from takeover for five years."

B & W payout, page 24

## ABN Amro director admits offering a job to Horlick

By Robert Miller

A SENIOR director of ABN Amro has confirmed that the Dutch bank approached Nicola Horlick, the former Morgan Grenfell fund manager, with a job offer.



Horlick suspended

Rijkman van Tets, a member of the managing board of ABN Amro, which yesterday unveiled annual pre-tax profits up 25 per cent to £1.6 billion, is the first director to confirm formally that the bank held talks with Ms Horlick. However, Ms Horlick's team from Morgan Grenfell, Ms Horlick was suspended from her job last month amid allegations by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell that she breached her contract by trying to persuade her successful fund

team, I am not a believer in poaching teams and I would never have done that. Nor would I try to disrupt their business."

Ms Horlick told The Times last night: "I did meet Rijkman van Tets unexpectedly at the Lansborough Hotel in London on the evening of Wednesday January 8. He basically said that he would like me to run the global asset management business of ABN Amro." The former Morgan Grenfell fund manager said Mr van Tets had been concerned because "he did not want to upset Deutsche Bank as he felt it could jeopardise the working relationship between the two banks after the introduction of a single European currency."

## Carlton in running to buy Rank films

By Eric Reguly and Alasdair Murray

CARLTON Communications, the ITV company, has emerged as one of the leading contenders for Rank's film distribution business.

Carlton would not confirm or deny that it was among the bidders for the business, which was officially placed on the auction block last week. But sources familiar with the sales effort said that Carlton, whose chairman is Michael Green, is in the running.

Analysts have predicted that the price tag could reach £100 million. But Rank has dampened expectations by pointing out that the rights to many of the more popular films in the library have already been sold. The business, which has a book value

of £22 million, could go for as little as £50 million. The Rank catalogue is best known for the Ealing comedies, the Carry On films and other classics, such as the original The 39 Steps and Lord Olivier's Henry V. Recent successes include Strictly Ballroom and The Madness of King George III.

## RTZ-CRA harks back to Rio Tinto roots

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE  
IN FREMANTLE

RTZ-CRA is turning the dock back more than 100 years in the quest for a new corporate identity. The mining company is seeking shareholders' permission to change its name back to Rio Tinto, a name first used in 1873.

Rio Tinto, or red-wine coloured river, was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1873 to acquire and develop the ancient Rio Tinto copper mines in southern Spain.

The present dual-listed structure of RTZ-CRA, resulting from the 1995 merger, will be maintained but Rio Tinto will become the name for the unified group. The name change, however, met with outrage in Australia's financial community which regard it as another example of RTZ-CRA.

entering its influence over CRA, which has its roots in Conzinc Rhotinto of Australia formed in 1962 from the merger of Consolidated Zinc and the Rio Tinto Mining Company of Australia.

One analyst said: "People will see this as another indication that RTZ is flexing its muscle and it will fuel the belief that the merger was really just a disguised back door takeover of CRA by RTZ."

Yesterday RTZ-CRA reported a 15 per cent drop in full-year net profits to \$1.1 billion for the year to December, in line with expectations. Much of the fall in RTZ-CRA's profits for the year to December was due to lower metal prices and production problems at some of its larger operations. The total dividend rises from 31.5p to 31.7p.

Tempest, page 26

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## Investors in B&W to get £1,100

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

SAVERS with the Bristol & West Building Society for more than two years will get a cash payout worth an average £1,100 under the terms of the £600 million takeover by the Bank of Ireland.

Borrowers and those who have been savers for less than two years will get 250 preference shares, estimated to be worth £1 each. The deal, announced on April 14 last year, is expected to go through on July 28 - "vesting day".

Details of the takeover will be mailed to the society's one million members on March 7. Two-year savers are those who had £100 in their accounts on April 14, 1996, and who will hold an account continuously from December 31, 1994, until the day before vesting day.

Those that benefit from the preference shares will have access to a free share-dealing facility in the six weeks after the completion of the deal.

The cash will be equivalent to 6.5 per cent of the lower of the two balances on April 14, 1996, and June 25, 1997, and any other day from yesterday until vesting day. A special meeting will be held on April 15 at the Royal Bath & West of England Society Showground, Shepton Mallet.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.30	2.04
Austria Sch	20.33	18.88
Belgium Fr	66.05	65.35
Canada \$	2.337	2.177
Cyprus Cyp	0.866	0.800
Denmark Kr	11.08	10.26
Finland Mk	8.77	8.12
France Fr	9.67	9.02
Germany Dr	5.80	5.89
Greece Dr	447	421
Hong Kong \$	15.57	15.27
Ireland £	1.90	1.90
Ireland Pt	1.08	1.00
Israel Sh	5.74	5.39
Italy Lit	2085	2080
Japan Yen	211.80	186.50
Norway Kr	11.49	10.89
Netherlands Gld	3.238	3.009
New Zealand \$	2.50	2.38
Norway Kr	11.49	10.89
Portugal Esc	207.00	208.50
S Africa Rd	7.54	7.54
Spain Ptas	94.00	207.00
Sweden Kr	12.80	12.00
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.25
Taiwan Nts	206.00	192.00
USA \$	1.720	1.600

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Richard Giordano, chairman of the recently demerged British Gas which ended its trading life in the red.

## British Gas signs off with final-year losses of £571m

By OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH GAS lost more than £500 million in 1996, its final year as a single entity. At the last official function of the now demerged group, Richard Giordano, the chairman, blamed restructuring costs for turning a £130 million pre-tax profit last year into a £571 million loss.

The group was plunged into the red by exceptional charges totalling more than £1.1 billion in the year to December 31. The renegotiation of two take-over contracts and the losses on long-term gas sales deals accounted for £635 million.

Restructuring prior to demerger, which included halving the workforce to 35,000, cost £424 million. Mr Giordano also acknowledged that the group had to launch a costly fightback against "a fall in our customer service level in the last 18 months". British Gas was overwhelmed for much of last year by customer complaints about billings and cut-offs.

This month, British Gas demerged its gas supply business into a new company, Centrica, and changed the name of its remaining gas

transport and storage business to BG. Centrica had a pre-tax loss of £1 billion last year and BG made a pre-tax profit of £381 million. British Gas shareholders will receive an unchanged dividend of 14.5p a share, due on July 2, but Mr Giordano gave warning that the dividend level is certain to come down over the next few years. Earnings per share of 2.9p last year turned into losses per share of 13p, and in the fourth quarter pre-tax losses amounted to £579 million, compared with a profit of £55 million in

the same period last year. The 1996 results would have been worse if the excessively cold weather had not helped to increase sales. Prices in the commercial and industrial markets are said to be weak.

The group declined to give estimates of expected future losses resulting from the renegotiation of further take-over contracts. It said that talks with the counterparties in those contracts are continuing but no resolution is expected until the end of this year.

BG is now gearing up for a Monopolies and Mergers Commission review, scheduled for April, into the new gas-pricing formula proposed by Ofgas, the industry regulator. Philip Hampton, finance director, said: "We have no firm indication that there is any reason for advancement or delay. We're still working on the assumption that it will hit its timetable."

The politically sensitive review could be delayed until May when the general election will have taken place.

## Charity link boosts Cantab

SHARES in Cantab Pharmaceuticals yesterday hit a new peak of 900p as the drug development company linked up with the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity to form a new biotechnology company (Paul Durman writes).

Cantab and MCCC will be

joint owners of Phogen, which will aim to develop VP22, a protein from a herpes virus that is potentially a highly effective drug-delivery mechanism. A team at the Marie Curie Research Institute has shown that VP22 is very good at penetrating cell nuclei. The

scientists hope that it could be used to treat a wide range of diseases by delivering peptides, proteins, DNA and even conventional drugs to diseased cells.

Cantab shares rose 27p to 900p. They began 1996 at 671p after a low of 103p in 1995.

## Warning by CBI on Britain's EMU line

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH business may be at risk if "Europhobia" on a single currency damages UK firms' access to European markets, the Confederation of British Industry will say today.

The message comes after warnings from a number of companies, including British Aerospace, Unilever and Toyota, over Britain detaching itself from Europe over economic and monetary union.

While business remains undecided about whether Britain should join a single currency, UK companies, especially exporters, believe no step should be taken that would damage their ability to operate in the EU single market.

Adair Turner, CBI Director General, will tell business leaders that the UK needs a prosperous Europe in which it can flourish economically. He will say: "We cannot afford to let Europhobia rule."

Speaking at a business breakfast in Cardiff, Mr Turner will say that if Britain decides not to be part of the first wave of EMU, the tone it strikes will be crucial.

If, even after deciding not to join a single currency early, Britain takes a "positive approach" to it and genuinely keeps open the option of joining subsequently, then UK firms' access to the single market is unlikely to be affected. "But if we stay out amid triumphalist assertions of our superiority and against a background of a wider Europhobia, rubbing our hands with glee at Europe's problems, we could risk isolation."

To do that would see Britain's views go unheeded, and its influence diminish. "Ultimately, our access to the single market could be at risk - to our enormous economic disadvantage."

Although CBI leaders have been attacked by Conservative Euro-sceptics for being too pro-European, Mr Turner will emphasise the benefits EU membership brings to business. He will point out that rather than Europe being an "economic disaster", income per head in Europe has grown faster than that in the US for the past 20 years and Europe's export performance remains strong.

## Railway firm to cut jobs, say protesters

A PRIVATISED rail company plans to lay off about 1,400 staff at the two passenger rail franchises that it was awarded during privatisation, it was claimed yesterday. Campaigners against the sell-off said that MTL Trust Holdings, a bus company based in Liverpool, would cut more than 1,000 jobs from Regional Railways North East (RRNE), about 40 per cent of the workforce, and 350 from Merseyrail. Save Our Railways, a public transport pressure group that received leaked extracts from MTL's bid documentation revealing the planned redundancies, said that the cuts "would leave the railway horrendously understaffed".

MTL, which is to take over the RRNE franchise on Sunday, said that it was too early for it to comment on the exact numbers of jobs that would be lost, but it admitted that "by the end of the franchise term there will be a reduction in the level of staffing".

## Partco drives ahead

PARTCO, the car parts distribution group, is paying £103 million for Brown Brothers, the UK's leading supplier of paint to car bodyshops, which it is funding in part by a rights issue that will raise £68.8 million. Partco also announced annual pre-tax profits of £10.4 million, or £11.6 million before restructuring costs, up from £7.5 million. Underlying earnings rose 22.3 per cent to 22.5p a share. A final dividend of 5.5p, due on May 30, makes a total of 8p, up 14.3 per cent. *Temps, page 26*

## Icahn out of Nabisco

CARL ICAHN, the US investor, has raised about \$731 million with the sale of his shares in RJR Nabisco and has apparently abandoned his year-long effort to break up the food and tobacco company. Mr Icahn unloaded his stake of 19.9 million shares at \$36.75 a share. In a sale brokered by Goldman Sachs, the stake was equal to about 7.3 per cent of RJR Nabisco, whose products include Winston and Salem cigarettes, Oreos cookies, Ritz crackers and Lifesavers candy.

## ITT to expand hotels

ITT CORP, seeking to thwart a hostile \$6.5 billion bid from Hilton Hotels Corp, has announced plans to add 28 hotels to its core Sheraton business. The move was the second by ITT since it rejected Hilton's offer earlier this month and said it may sell non-core assets to focus on hotel and casino operations. ITT has sold nearly half its 5 per cent stake in Alcatel Alsthom, the French telecommunications company and is expected to sell its 50 per cent stake in the Madison Square Garden properties.

## Whessoe bid success

THE joint Norwegian and Swiss break-up bid for Whessoe, the instrumentation company, headed towards victory yesterday when Siesbe, the engineering group, said it would not increase its 146 million offer. Møvik of Norway and Endress & Hauser of Switzerland, which are bidding \$324 million, bought a further 4.44 million shares to lift their stake in Whessoe to 25.6 per cent. Siesbe said it could not justify lifting its offer of 155p a share. Whessoe is expected to back the 175p bid from Navis and E&H.

## Citicorp bonus is cut

JOHN REED, chairman of Citicorp, the US merchant bank, saw his bonus cut to \$2 billion in 1996, from \$3 billion in each of the two previous years. The annual report shows that his basic pay rose to \$1.5 million in 1996, from \$1.30 million in 1995 and \$1.28 million in 1994. His 1996 bonus was 75 per cent cash, with the rest in shares. Mr Reed exercised options to buy 679,000 shares in 1996, with \$40.1 million in "value realised", the market value of common stock acquired minus exercise price.

## Akzo considers offer

AKZO NOBEL, the diversified Dutch chemicals company, said yesterday that it was considering making an offer for Unichema International and Croscil, two of the four specialised chemicals businesses offered for sale by Unilever. Akzo was reporting 1996 net profits little changed at 1.32 billion guilders (about £427 million) on sales up 4 per cent to 22.4 billion guilders. The company said higher profits in pharmaceuticals and coatings were offset by falls in chemicals and fibres.

## Linotype-Hell merges

ONE of the oldest names in the British printing industry is to disappear, with the loss of nearly 100 jobs. Linotype-Hell, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, is to merge with Heidelberg Graphic Equipment, the German printing machine company that acquired a controlling interest last November. Linotype operations are to move to Heidelberg's UK headquarters in Brentford, west London, and to its offices in Tarnworth and Leeds. Most of the job losses will be at Cheltenham.

## BTP acquisition

BTP, the UK chemicals group, has agreed to acquire PCR, a fine chemicals manufacturer, from Harris Specialty Chemicals Inc for \$72.3 million. PCR specialises in organosilicon and fluorine chemistry, and provides specific manufacturing capabilities and a range of fine chemicals. PCR's manufacturing facilities are based in Florida and Puerto Rico. PCR earned operating profits of £6.3 million. PCR will be integrated into BTP's biocides and fine chemicals division.

## Memory's loss deepens

MEMORY CORPORATION, the memory chip producer, has done a deal with Sun Microsystems of Japan to help it to escape the volatile microchip market. Memory, which is switching from selling repaired dram microchips to licensing technology for repairs, said that Sun Microsystems will arrange at least two licensing contracts a year from 1998. Memory made a £4.5 million pre-tax loss last year (£1.95 million loss previously) after a collapse in the price of perfect chips hit the market for repaired ones.

## Bundesbank chief warns on wrong signal for union

By OLIVER AUGUST

THE Bundesbank, in its most sceptical note on monetary union in months, yesterday said Europe has not escaped the vicious circle of excessive government debt and upward pressure on interest rates.

Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president, said most countries were still hemmed in by debts and deficits, threatening stability of the single currency. He said: "The vicious circle of indebtedness and higher interest rate burdens are crowding out other tasks and lead to ever higher taxes."

Speaking in Frankfurt to marketmakers at Goldman Sachs, he said the single currency had yet to win confidence. An easing of the fiscal requirements for monetary union membership would "send the wrong signal" and would create the illusion that the current state of public finances was acceptable.

Herr Tietmeyer agreed European exchange rates had become more stable but insisted the existing institutional structures set out in the Maastricht treaty were not sufficient to prevent a resurgence of inflation.

He said: "Is an independent European central bank not enough to achieve price stability? This question has to be answered with an unequivocal 'nein', in my opinion."

He acknowledged that however independent, central bankers are still subject to public pressures. He said: "Therefore it is necessary that finance ministers in all member countries regain control [over their budgets] and commit themselves to achieving stability."



Tietmeyer: sceptical

## Castle consortium planning to tower over rivals BBC transmitters in new hands

By ERIC REGULY

CASTLE Transmission Services, the group that is to be confirmed today as new owner of the BBC transmitter network, will use the acquisition as a springboard for media infrastructure developments worldwide. It also plans to spend as much as £200 million on upgrading the service for digital terrestrial TV.

In its first privatisation, the BBC sold the system, which transmits all of the BBC's radio and TV signals, for more than £240 million. Strong competition from bidders, including Securicor, Mercury Asset Management and NTL, the owner of the ITV companies' transmission network, ensured that the price was higher than expected.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heri-

tage Secretary, said at a media conference yesterday that the proceeds from the sale will be used by the BBC to launch digital TV services, giving the viewer the choice of dozens of channels.

Castle Transmission is a consortium of Castle Tower, a transmission tower construction company in America, Berkshire Partners, a Boston investment firm, Candover Investments of Britain, and France Telecom. Ted Miller, 45, the millionaire Texan who is chief executive of Castle Tower, is to become chief executive of the British company.

Mr Miller will run a business with few risk factors and considerable opportunity for expansion. The BBC has agreed to remain an analogue client for 10 years and all the mobile-phone companies, including Vodafone and Orange, use the

network. Growth will come probably on the digital and overseas fronts.

Mr Miller said that Castle, with the help of an army of BBC and France Telecom engineers, will soon begin to convert the BBC network to allow the transmission of digital signals. It will then compete with NTL to supply digital services to the BBC, ITV, Channels 4 and 5 and British Digital Broadcasting, the digital TV consortium formed by Carlton, Granada and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster.

Mr Miller believes that the potential for overseas growth is enormous. "Our objective is to become the largest infrastructure company in the world for broadcasting and telephony," he said. "The BBC will be our platform to launch into the international market."



She's fifteen and pregnant. Should she have an abortion?



He's in constant pain from cancer. Should he take an overdose?

**WANTED: PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG.**



His wife died three years ago. Should he be over it by now?

Could you be a Samaritan? Look at the questions in the photographs, and make a note of your answers.

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And if you answered mostly no? Surprising as it may seem, you're probably not right for us either.

But if you weren't sure - if you can resist the urge to make any kind of judgment, moral or otherwise - you might be just the kind of volunteer we need.

To a Samaritan, there are no right or wrong answers. If you hold strong personal views, you leave them at the door.

Two different callers, faced with the same problem, might end up at two different solutions. What we do is help them think clearly, providing space and time to sort things out.

As you expect, being on our end of the phone isn't a laugh a minute. Most Samaritans can only do it for so long, which is why we constantly need new recruits to take their place.

If you'd like to help, please call our Volunteer Line on 0990 62 72 82. For once, we'd be happy to say it's the right thing to do.

**The Samaritans**  
We'll go through it with you.



Her husband's having an affair. Should she walk out?



□ Long silence over Mirror flotation inquiry □ Integrity checks out at Safeway □ Not much profit in prudence for the Abbey

## Unmasked Maxwell questions

AS A MAN who appears to regularly on television, Michael Heseltine knows a thing or two about cosmetic exercises. This is what he was accused of perverting when, as President of the Board of Trade, he appointed inspectors to investigate the flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers. Now, more than four and a half years later, and assuming, for a moment, a Labour election victory, there seems to be little chance of this report being completed while Mr Heseltine is still a member of Her Majesty's Government, never mind published.

But one could ask Her Majesty's Government what on earth is going on. The investigation was launched seven months after Robert Maxwell's death, in November 1991 and in the teeth of a Serious Fraud Office investigation that everyone knew would lead to prosecutions. So clearly a report could not be published while the court case was outstanding.

It is now more than four months since everyone accused walked free at the end of the trial, yet there still seems to be no progress. Usually, draft criticisms are sent to those being investigated by the inspectors. Although something approaching that happened about a year ago, those who received the rambling conclusions have

heard nothing since. Perhaps the inspectors want to do a little more research; they now hope to question those whom judge and jury have cleared. It appears that Kevin Maxwell is now about to be questioned. Up to now, the inspectors may have been a little nervous about approaching him, because he has shown an adept knowledge of both the legal system and the art of publicity.

No doubt he has scrutinised the European Court of Human Rights ruling on the Ernest Saunders case to make sure just what the DTI's men can and cannot force him to disclose. But you clearly have no chance of completing an authoritative report into the Mirror float without speaking to the one living person who knew most about how the Maxwell empire worked — or did not.

So far, the investigation into the Maxwell case has found no one guilty of criminal charges, no one guilty of misleading the market over the share support operation and no one guilty of failing to disclose vital information about how much of a mess Maxwell was in.

At present, Mirror shares stand 60 per cent above the float price. The pensioners swindled by Maxwell have had their pensions guaranteed in full — those that did not die before-hand. A small number of very unfortunate victims of various legal loopholes have lost out financially; the damage was mainly absorbed by the big City institutions.

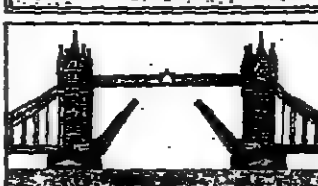
Perhaps the DTI has reasoned that there is no case to answer? In which case the Maxwell affair will turn out to be that *rara avis*, a crime with lots of victims, most of whom were compensated, but no perpetrators.

### Honest day's shopping

NEVER let it be said that this column only brings bad news. We now provide statistical proof to restore one's faith in human nature. People are honest.

The proof comes from Safeway, well ahead of its rivals in allowing customers to check off the goods in their trolleys themselves rather than queuing for a

### PENNINGTON



A handy gizmo called Shop and Go is available at more than a quarter of the company's near-400 stores to be carried around and run along the bar codes on each item bought.

This is presented at the check-out, and the customer pays the total registered. The opportunities for shoplifting are obvious: an undecorated bottle of Scotch or joint of meat can take a hefty percentage off the weekly shopping bill. So Safeway institutes random checks, a little like that occasional tap on the shoulder that used to trouble you when you went through the green channel at Customs.

Anyone whose bills are out of line with the contents of their trolley can expect to be checked

next time, this information being registered on their loyalty card, and if they are consistently underpaying they can expect to be told to shop elsewhere. But they will not be prosecuted for shoplifting, Safeway making the assumption that they have made an honest mistake.

Cynics might expect that random checks would turn up a larger number of people with trolleys worth more than the sales on their gizmos, that is, about to be undercharged, than with less and so in danger of overpaying. That was the suggestion from other food retailers, some of who are now experimenting with systems of their own while Safeway rolls the gizmo out in more stores.

But the figures gathered over the 18 months the system has been in operation show only a tiny and statistically insignificant percentage swing. This is surprising because, unless you are intending to be a regular Safeway shopper, the self-checking system makes occasional shoplifting quite easy. There is a small chance of being caught, and no chance of being punished

— a bit like most other forms of crime, come to think of it. But the huge majority of people are still honest. Enjoy your day.

### Getting rid of one Abbey habit

ALMOST through the banks' reporting season, and a bumpy ride it has been. Two of the biggest, NatWest and Barclays, saw sharp, and not always justified, share price falls. The market may not have fallen out of love with the sector, but it is certainly becoming more choosy. Those analysts not worried about bad loans if the economy slows are worried about the threat from the supermarkets.

Now Abbey National, whose own figures for 1996 received a grudging thumbs up from the market yesterday, wants more than half of profits to come from non-traditional sources by the end of the decade, even if Scottish Amicable slips from its grasp. Last year these operations, including insurance, consumer credit, treasury and offshore businesses, managed 40 per

cent, so the plan seems achievable. It is also understandable once you look at the Abbey's traditional business of lending on mortgages.

This ever-so-prudent business managed to raise net lending, stripping out the extra business gained by the National & Provincial, by just 2.4 per cent. The company claims to be moving away from discounted mortgages while cutting out cash-backs for customers who are remortgaging, only using this largely discredited perk to gain new business. But the cost of mortgage discounts and cash-backs still doubled to £187 million between 1995 and 1996. So much for prudence.

### Back to the future

THE pendulum swings, and swings back again. Just as the British Gas name disappears in favour of a brutalised BG, so RTZ is reborn in all its glory as Rio Tinto. Could this be the start of a general WPP ad men might not take to being reborn as Wire & Plastic Products, but could British Oxygen Corporation again play its trade untruncated? Imperial Chemical Industries may be politically incorrect, but why not London & Scottish Marine Oil? Could we please, please have back British Insulated Callender's Cables?

## British Land to raise £220m for venture with GUS

By CARL MORTIMER

BRITISH LAND is raising £220 million in a share issue to fund its investment in a billion pound retail property joint venture with Great Universal Stores.

The property group, run by John Ribbit, is spending £200 million for a half interest in a portfolio of high street shops currently owned by GUS and valued at £950 million.

The joint venture is to be financed with £400 million of equity and £560 million of debt but, for a period of about a year, GUS is financing the

venture by taking a £500 million loan note in return for injecting the properties into the joint venture. On completion the retailer will also be paid £200 million by British Land for its share of the equity. Funding will be sought from banks on a non-recourse basis to repay the GUS loan in due course.

GUS will receive interest on the loan and the joint venture agreement ensures that the retailer's property income in the first year will be equivalent to that of the previous year.

Net rental income from the properties totals £70.8 million.

GUS said yesterday that it was selling the portfolio because it lacked the management team to make the assets perform well. British Land will receive a £1 million fee for running the joint venture, as well as its share of the equity.

The GUS properties, which are mainly freehold, comprise several shopping centres, including The Forge in Glasgow and the St Nicholas Centre in Aberdeen, as well as some offices, but 77 per cent of the portfolio is high street shops spread across the country.

The GUS portfolio will substantially boost British Land's retail portfolio, which is currently biased towards food superstores. John Weston Smith, finance director of British Land, said that a number of the properties would be sold and that performance could be improved by trading, buying in freeholds and selling sites to occupiers.

"High street shops are very much a growth area. With restrictions on out-of-town planning we think that this is a good place to invest," he said.

British Land is issuing 42.8 million shares at 520p each in a vendor placing to institutions. The joint venture has no time limit but British Land pointed out that the subordinated debt has a seven-year life. Each party has a right of first refusal if the other wishes to sell its interest in the joint venture.

Times, page 26



Sitting more comfortably: Nigel Potter, finance director, left, Claes Hultman and Alan Coppin, chief executive

## Euro 96 brings a final to Wembley

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE SUCCESS of the European football championships helped Wembley to return to profit last year, ensuring the company can pay its first dividend for four years. The leisure company reported full-year pre-tax profits of £17.1 million (£8.1 million loss).

Wembley completed the restructuring of its balance sheet and renegotiated banking facilities at the end of last year, enabling payment of a 2p final dividend.

Claes Hultman, chairman, said the company is working with football, rugby league and athletics authorities to complete financial and planning arrangements to redevelop the Wembley site as the new national stadium.

The redevelopment is expected to cost around £200 million, with £120 million from a lottery grant. Wembley suggested previously it would place the stadium into a trust and operate the facilities, although the company said yesterday that no final decision on the stadium's ownership had been taken. Profits from the Wembley complex rose 54 per cent to £14.1 million. US racetrack profits rose 35 per cent to £13.9 million because of the success of video lottery terminals at Rhode Island. Wembley has attracted the Denver Foxes American football team to its Mile High greyhound stadium, ensuring better use of facilities.

But profits from UK greyhound racing fell to £2.5 million affected by the National Lottery. Keith Prowse hospitality profits rose to £500,000. Wembley continued to cut debt and gearing fell to 27 per cent (42 per cent).

## Liberty plans to expand portfolio

By MARIANNE CORPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LIBERTY International, the South African-controlled investment and shopping centre group, increased profits 7 per cent to £100 million in 1996 and said it would consider making acquisitions "if we find the right opportunity".

However, David Fischel, managing director, said he felt "under no pressure to go out and spend money" to increase the financial services division, even though the parent company had £300 million cash.

He said it had been "a transitional year" for the group known formerly as

TransAtlantic Holdings. Donald Gordon, the chairman, said the shopping centres were benefiting from "a number of favourable social trends".

Earnings per share, before exceptional items, increased 13 per cent to 19.77p (17.56p) on reduced capital after the repurchase and cancellation of 40 million shares in 1995 at 320p each. The dividend has been increased 10 per cent to 16p and total shareholders' funds are £2.1 billion. The net asset value increased 16 per cent to 436p (375p) or 445p (395p) on a fully diluted basis.

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Times, page 26

## Glenmorangie buys distillery from Allied

ALLIED DOMCO, the drinks company, yesterday sold its Ardbeg whisky distillery to Glenmorangie for £7 million (Alasdair Murray writes).

Allied is selling the Ardbeg brand and maturing whisky stocks along with the Islay distillery. The company said it had made the disposal to concentrate its resources on its core brands, which include Ballantine's and Teacher's, as well as Laphroaig, its main Islay malt.

Glenmorangie said that the purchase would strengthen its portfolio of malts, which include Glenmorangie and Glen Moray. The company is aiming to regenerate the brand through an intensified marketing campaign.

Times, page 26

## Charlton tactic is to sell players

By JASON NISSE

RICHARD MURRAY, chairman of Charlton Athletic, said that the first division football club will sell players to sustain profits after floating on the Alternative Investment Market with a market value of £17.4 million.

The club, of which Michael Grade is a non-executive director, is to raise £6.5 million to complete the rebuilding of its home at The Valley, and will make profits this year only because of the £2.8 million sale of Lee Bowyer to Leeds United.

Mr Murray said that the best Charlton can hope for is to be a "yo-yo" club, winning promotion to the Premiership

only or two afterwards. "All these clubs who say they are going to win the Premiership are chasing a dream," he said.

The chairman said the club had made £1 million a year on average from selling players developed through its youth policy and would continue to sell players to make profit.

Charlton is the 14th football club to come to market. The 15th will be Newcastle, which is to launch a prospectus for its float today. Aston Villa, West Ham and Coventry have indicated that they are likely to float in the next few months.

Times, page 26

## Whitbread shakes up leisure side

DAVID THOMAS, chief executive designate at Whitbread, launched his first big shake-up at the company yesterday — restructuring the leisure division into five units (Alasdair Murray writes).

The restaurant division, which will include Pelican, BrightReasons, Pizza Hut, TGI Friday's and Costa Coffee, will be headed by Richard Sampson. Alan Parker will be managing director of the Whitbread Hotel company, which includes the Marriott and Travel Inn brands. The Beefeater Restaurant & Pub chain will be run by Simon Wood, while Jerry Walton will be managing director of Thresher, the off licence. Steve Philpott will continue as managing director of the David Lloyd Leisure chain.

Times, page 26

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Investors shrug off US interest rate worries

IT WAS business as usual for investors on the London stock market as they shrugged off worries about a possible rise in US interest rates.

They were not doubt encouraged by the performance of the Dow Jones industrial average overnight, which halved an earlier 120-point fall. Prices in London closed at their best of the day with the FT-SE 100 index up 9.9 points at 4,339.2. A total of 800 million shares were traded.

A program trade was recorded late in the session, with several large lines of stock going through the market. It included 1.2 million Smith-Kline Beecham at 919p as the price rose 9p to 923p and 4.75 million Prudential Corporation at 566p as the price closed 4p dearer at 572p.

The big rise in the dividend on the back of a near doubling of profits lifted Lasso 7p to 240p. But Société Générale Strauss Turnbull told clients to take profits and Credit Lyonnais Laid urged a switch into Enterprise Oil, 10p better at 629p.

There was further heavy turnover in Pilkington as the price rose 3p to 142p and 3.6 million shares changed hands. A line of 500,000 shares went through at 142p leading to suggestions that a large buyer may be stalking Brim's biggest glass producer. Bid speculation also helped Reed International to a rise of 22p to £11.50 as turnover reached 1.46 million shares in this market.

It was a day of mixed fortunes for the banking sector, with Bank of Scotland falling 14p to 341p after warning that profits from BankWest, its 51 per cent owned Australian subsidiary, would fall short of forecast. NatWest Bank was also a weak market, losing 15p at 759p ahead of going ex the 19.4p net dividend on Monday.

A solid performance from the life and pensions operations of Abbey National helped it to post a solid performance last year. The group reassured brokers that it would not pay for the odds for Scottish Amicable. The shares rose 4p to 768p.

Standard Chartered continued to reflect on Wednesday's profit numbers with a jump of 32p to 815p. NatWest Securities, the broker, is telling clients to add to their holdings, while Nikko buys the shares a long-term buy.



Ray Nethercott saw Allied Carpets share price slip

British Land, the property developer, eased 2p to 539p as it placed a total of 42.5 million shares at 520p. The proceeds will be used to fund a joint £960 million joint property venture with Great Universal Stores. British Land is paying GUS, 4p dearer at 666p, £200 million for its stake in the venture.

Racal Electronic rose 4p to 292p as it placed a break-up value on Racal of 386p a share.

David S Smith, a takeover favourite, was left nursing a fall of 10p at 242p after Merrill Lynch, the broker, urged clients to reduce their holdings. It has also cut its forecast in the paper group for the current year by £15 million to £85 million and for 1998 by £20 million to £115 million. Hopes

now put a break-up value on Racal of 386p a share.

Wedderburn Securities, the property developer that is listed on the AIM, was suspended at 24p. It has agreed to acquire an oil trading company. Trading in the shares has been frozen until the deal can be finalised.

GLT-EDGED: There was a sharp flattening of the yield curve as shorter-dated issues remained overshadowed by comments from Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, about US interest rates.

Prices made a cautious start and were in danger of accelerating the losses after publication of worse than expected US durable goods numbers. But, perversely, investors saw this as an opportunity to buy the market. The best gains were seen among longer-dated issues where rises of about 6p were commonplace.

In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt put on 6p to close at £113.32. The total number of contracts completed grew to 120,000 as investors continued to roll over open positions in March to the June series. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on 1p to £106.4, while among the shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 cost must only a rise of three ticks to £104.14.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares were little changed in late morning trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 11.54 points at 6,971.64.

Memory Corporation, where losses last year grew from £1.95 million to £4.5 million. The price fell 7p to 45p.

Pace Micro Technology slipped another 1p to 85p, stretching the loss of the past two days to 72p. It follows the group's second profits warning in less than a month and the departure of the chief executive.

It was the first day of trading for a clutch of new companies. Nord Anglia Education Group was placed at 140p and opened at 157p. The price touched a peak of 164p before closing at 164p, a premium of 24p. Howle Holdings made its debut opening just 1p higher following a placing at 28p. The price closed at 30p, a premium of 2p.

Hanover International, the hotelier, was steady at 159p. Whispers in the Square Mile suggest the group is poised to make a sizeable acquisition.

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## NEW YORK (midday):

Dow Jones 6971.64 (-11.54)  
S&P Composite 852.28 (-3.43)

Tokyo 19021.56 (+306.6)

Hong Kong 13566.00 (+4.77)

Amsterdam 246.60 (+4.38)

Sydney 2667.17 (-18.4)

Frankfurt 3276.22 (+30.85)

Singapore 2390.00 (+25.44)

Brussels 1918.47 (+13.49)

Paris 2629.40 (+27.23)

Zurich 939.10 (-1.60)

London:

FT 30 2870.6 (+6.8)

FT 100 4399.2 (+4.28)

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## TEMPUS

### Land of hope

GUS is well shot of its property portfolio but it is less clear why British Land is so keen. The property company is buying a thousand separate assets, ranging from minor shopping centres to end of high street units. Meanwhile, the Glasgow shopping centre faces competition from a new development. It is a pick and mix portfolio left with GUS when the group exited from some of its less than exciting chain stores.

Retail is the big play in property at the moment but to say that retail is hot is as meaningful as bullish forecasts of the housing market, it all depends on what and where. Good shopping centres trade on yields of 6 per cent or less but take a provincial high street where the consumer footfall has departed for the nearest out-of-town mall and the yields could move into double digits. Planning guidelines that

restrict out-of-town development are good news to owners of such assets who can enjoy the premium attached to scarcity.

Of course, British Land is aware of all this. The company hopes that a shortage of sites in big malls will cause retailers to move back to town streets and a planning bias in centres will, hopefully, attract investment in infrastructure. A good portion — possibly 20 per cent of the properties will be sold.

British Land is currently weak in non-food retail but the frothy mail market has deterred the company from buying out-of-town centres. That is wise but the high street is a gamble in a retail market that is still patchy. British Land made a success of food retailing while doubters spurned such investments. The company could well repeat the trick but it will have its work cut out.

### Partco

WHEN Partco floated in 1994, it set out to double in size within two or three years, an ambition that in hindsight looks modest. Nevertheless, its acquisition of Browne Brothers, the car components group, means the company has more than trebled in size since it came to the market.

Strategically, the latest move can scarcely be faulted. Brown's activities fit well with Partco's existing range of car parts and garage equipment. There is inevitably some overlap between the two branch networks but Partco is confident this is not a problem. Partco will have a 15 per cent share of the still highly fragmented market in motor components distribution.

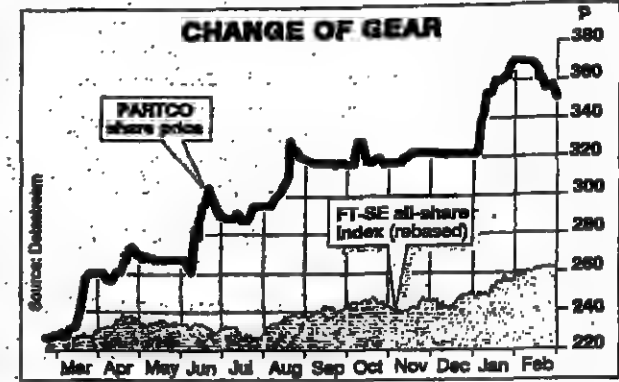
The doubts centre on timing. The Brown Brothers deal comes only eight

months after Partco's £56 million purchase of Serck Marston, the distributor of car radiators. Partco briefly reassured the stock market that Serck Marston is well loaded in, but another, larger acquisition so soon makes some heavy demands on management.

The purchase will initially raise balance sheet gearing

to 175 per cent. Although it should soon fall back to more modest levels, Partco's low margin business could look exposed if its trading is dented by post-election rises in interest rates.

These concerns should not prevent existing shareholders taking up their rights. Other investors can find better value elsewhere.



### RTZ-CRA

THE big question is whether the eponymous Rio Tinto is in flood or a mere babbling brook. Having decided to revert to its original name, based on a Spanish river darkened wine-red with copper ore deposits, investors are merely reminded that RTZ is first and foremost a copper producer.

The copper price has been improving — at 110 cents a pound it is well ahead of the 98 cents level used by RTZ at its end-of-year provisional pricing. Bearing that in mind, RTZ should have a good first half but the question is whether the price will hold, given the huge production expansion that is in the pipeline.

RTZ's management is tired of dire warnings about over-supply that pepper analysts' reports and the company. Forecasts predict a 5 to 6 per cent expansion in production this year, in large part due to RTZ itself, which has

invested huge sums in expanding its own output in Chile and Indonesia.

RTZ reckons demand will remain buoyant but a good part of its performance this year will depend on its success in getting the new Bingham Canyon smelting facility up to capacity levels of 280,000 tonnes. It produced 54,000 tonnes last year and a six-week shutdown is due in April. If it can achieve capacity in the second half the company might gain an extra \$80-90 million. In a market heading for surpluses RTZ cannot afford to run anything but a tight ship.

### Charlton

CHARLTON Athletic has a refreshing strategy. The first division football club is aware that it will never compete with Manchester United and Liverpool at the top of the Premiership. So it plans to cash in on the massive influx of cash coming from pay-per-view TV by sell-

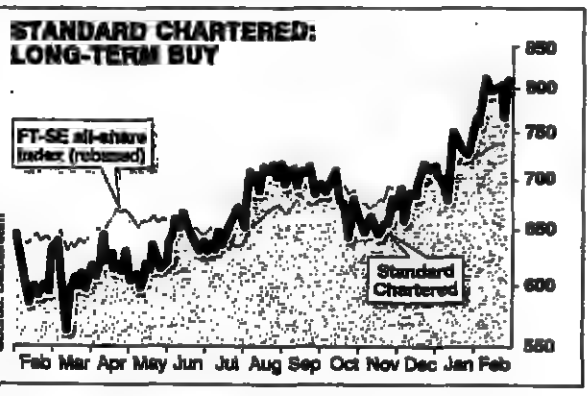
ing its best footballers to the clubs that are receiving that cash.

Richard Murray, the club's chairman, says it made an average of £1 million selling the products of its youth policy. This is just as well as the occasion of Charlton's last profit is a subject best left to archaeologists. Completing the rebuilding of the Valley, the club's home, should help, as would promotion to the Premiership, which is unlikely this year and a tough task thereafter.

Charlton needs to hold on to its best players. That means forgoing transfer profits, which begs the question of how it can earn enough to justify the £17.4 million valuation it is seeking in its AIM flotation.

The numbers do not add up. Charlton may be a nice little football team but it no more deserves to float than it does to win the Premiership. Avoid the shares.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER



### COMMODITIES

#### LIFE

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Mar 1997 20.00 20.00 20.00 20.00

Apr 1997 20.00 20.00 20.00 20.00



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THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28 1997

# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Three line up in Birch stakes

WITH 12 months still to go before Abbey National announces a replacement for Peter Birch's job, the betting is hotting up. Among the strongest candidates is Ian Harley, 46, finance director, and 25 years an Abbey man. Andrew Pepple, 38, managing director of retail banking, is also fancied, but word has it that he may have to wait until next time round. Tim Ingram, 49, managing director of the bank's European arm, is also proving a stayer. Meanwhile, Chris Wernham is the internal candidate tipped to succeed Jane Agnew as chief press officer when the latter moves to Merrill Lynch.

THERE are those among us who think Peps are an aid to indigestion. Seven per cent of people surveyed by Direct Line in conjunction with MORI mistook a Pep for an antacid tablet. Six per cent said it was a type of sports drink, 2 per cent said it was a tropical fish, and 18 per cent came clean, admitting that they didn't have a darn clue.

## Goodbye Trevor

THE brain behind the Wonderbra advert has defected to a rival agency. Trevor "Hello Boys" Beattie has quit the TBWA Simons Palmer Agency after four years, yesterday switching to GGT. The advertising whizzkid, who also created The Professionals Nissan Almera commercial, quit over TBWA's reported £12 million merger with Simons. Born and raised in Baisl Heath, Birmingham, Beattie earned a reported £250,000 a year at TBWA. Jay Pond-Jones, GGT's creative director, says: "I see him as a sort of creative coach to my more managerial role."



Caprice Bourret: the new Wonderbra girl

## Exotic taste

PAUL ROCHELEAU is to succeed Robbie Anagnostis as chief executive of Albright & Wilson. When Dr Paul retires at the end of July, Rocheleau and his family expect to be happily at home somewhere in England. Whether his address will be in Birmingham, where A&W has its HQ, or London, has yet to be decided, however. The pepsipatec Rocheleau, currently president of A&W Americas, lived in five houses in three countries during his first six years with the international chemicals group. In Birmingham on business for the next few days, Rocheleau is already developing a taste for balti curries. "I'll say it is enjoyable, but only in limited quantities," he tells me.

## Ken gets blues

KEN CLARKE will see his brown Hush Puppies turn blue today. On a visit to Xerox Business Services, the Chancellor will be presented with a photograph of himself, digitally remastered using Xerox colour technology, dressed in blue suede shoes. He will be at Rank Xerox's head office in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, for the signing of a contract between Xerox Business Services and Bridge Direct, a Nottingham business in Mr Clarke's Rushcliffe constituency.

MORAG PRESTON

## Labour silence on key points conceals likely aims of monetary policy

NOW that Gordon Brown has completed his series of speeches and lectures setting out the official economic policies of a future Labour government, it seems a good time to ask what Labour will really do if it wins the election. In particular it is worth reconsidering what a Labour government could mean for interest rates, sterling, taxes and the state of public finances — since the answers to all these questions seem rather different today from the ones I would have given a few months ago.

A good place to start is Wednesday's concluding lecture in the series, covering Labour's relations with the Bank of England, along with Mr Brown's interview in yesterday's *Times*. The most interesting points on monetary policy are ones that Mr Brown did not make. In proposing to "depersonalise" the monthly Ken and Eddie meetings by appointing a new policymaking council for the Bank, Mr Brown could achieve three unstated objectives.

First, he would avoid future disputes over interest rates with Eddie George, the Bank's Governor, by promising in advance to do whatever Mr George says. This was unnecessary for Kenneth Clarke, the present Chancellor, because he was able to prove that his judgment was often better than the Bank's. But for Mr Brown, who is an unknown quantity and represents a party which businessmen and investors instinctively regard with suspicion, defying the Bank would obviously be a dangerous course. What is less obvious is that Mr Brown's proposed reforms should minimise the political risks to Labour of blindly following the Bank's advice.

For the second unstated objective of his proposals is to put pressure on the Bank and the Governor to behave themselves in a way that is both economically responsible and politically acceptable to a Labour government. By "responsibility" I mean the opposite of the sense that central bankers attach to this word. For central bankers (at least in Europe) the only measure of monetary

"responsibility" is a low rate of inflation. But for anyone else (including central bankers in America and Japan) a responsible monetary policy means something quite different. It is a policy designed not only to achieve reasonably stable prices, but also to minimise unemployment, control cyclical fluctuations and allow the highest sustainable rate of economic growth. This is an infinitely more demanding objective than the simple official goal of keeping inflation at or around the 2.5 per cent target, but this broad range of objectives is exactly what the Tories, under Mr Clarke's economic leadership, have been successfully achieving, and it is what the Bank will be forced to strive for under Mr Brown. How will Mr Brown ensure that the Bank sticks to Anglo-Saxon definitions of monetary responsibility rather than following the example of the Bundesbank?

The answer lies in a cunning political device implicit in Mr Brown's monetary proposals. The Bank as an institution and Mr George as an individual desperately crave "operational independence". And Mr George's own position as Gov-

ernor comes up for review just a year after the general election. Under these circumstances, the Bank's incentive to co-operate with the new Chancellor is clear. I am not suggesting anything cynical or improper. Any reasonable central banker normally wants to co-operate with his finance minister and government, especially one that has just received a clear democratic mandate — and outside the

## Mr George's position comes up for review a year after the election

future European monetary union almost all central banks are mandated by their statutes to "support the general economic policies of the government". Nevertheless, it must be reassuring for Mr Brown to have in place some institutional deterrents against the over-zealous and narrow-minded monetary policies sometimes demanded by Mr George and the Bank.

Having such deterrents in place is particularly important because of the third — and most important — hidden item

that I suspect may be on Mr Brown's monetary agenda. This is his newfound anxiety about an overly strong pound. Mr Brown, along with Mr Clarke and much of the British business community, seems to have woken up much earlier than I expected to the danger of allowing sterling to become overvalued. If true, this is extremely good news for Britain's manufacturers and exporters — and indeed for the

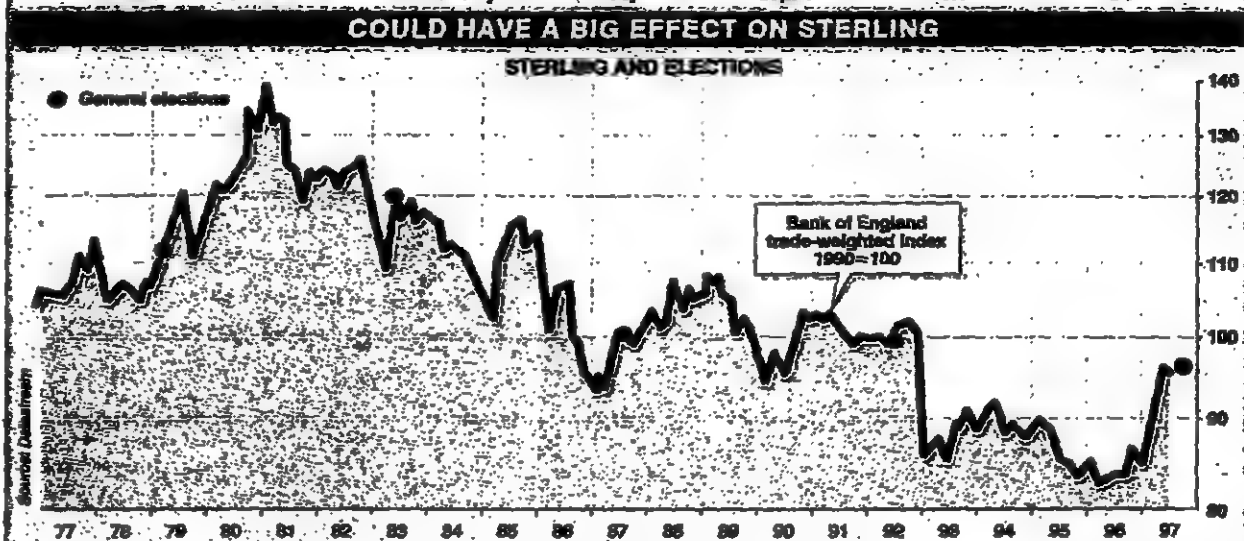
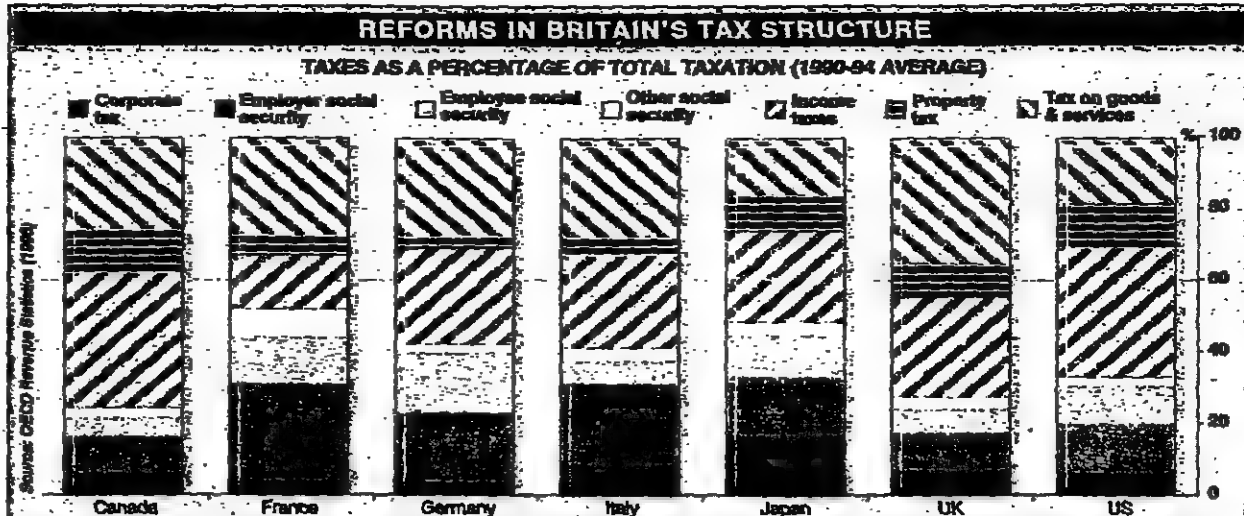
economy as a whole. It also has important implications for all other aspects of economic policy.

On the monetary front, the Bank of England will have to co-operate with the Government's desire to maintain a reasonably competitive exchange rate by going easy on interest rates. Interest rates may not rise by even as much as the 0.75 percentage points that the markets now expect by December — if so, the pound would probably rise only slightly from current

# What Brown could really do

ECONOMIC VIEW

AVIARILE KALETSKY



# Tesco chief with populist touch puts customers first

Terry Leahy talks about his new role to Sarah Cunningham



The success of Clubcard is largely down to Terry Leahy

than anyone else," he says. The transformation of Tesco from a "pile 'em high, sell 'em cheap" outfit into the current slick, service-oriented operation began long before Leahy's time. But the change accelerated when Tesco began its move into financial services two years ago with the launch of Clubcard, Britain's first supermarket loyalty card.

Leahy is credited with much of the success of Clubcard and among his first tasks as chief executive he will have to steer Tesco through the launch of the bank that it is setting up with Royal Bank of Scotland. The bank's first credit card will come out in the summer. Mortgages, investment, insurance and savings products are expected to follow.

The announcement of the banking venture this month was marred by a reported row with NatWest, which had been running Tesco's souped-up Clubcard Plus. In spite of the grumbling from the NatWest camp, Leahy is adamant that Tesco will not have to pay any penalty or compensation for ending their agreement prematurely.

Leahy insists that the new bank will be entirely driven by customer demands. "If we are going to be successful in this area it won't be because the banks are very bad, it is only because we are going to be very good. If we can develop products and services which genuinely are convenient to use and are simple to understand and do offer outstanding value then we

might have a difference there," Leahy, who was born in Liverpool and still has a Scouse accent and a passion for Everton Football Club, is a convinced populist. In spite of his job and high income, he sees himself and his family as typical in many ways. His wife, Alison, is a GP and they live with their 8-year-old twins and 5-year-old son in Ponder's End, near the Tesco headquarters in Cheshunt. As he says: "My wife works — that is very typical nowadays — we have children, we live in the suburbs, we're short of time — that's absolutely typical."

He says that he is conscious of criticism of supermarkets and happy to justify what they do. But, he adds: "I do sometimes feel that criticism comes from quarters not close to the lives of ordinary people." His suspicions focus on the architects who criticise supermarket designs, and particularly the typical brick and tile branches of Tesco found in Essex, adorned with Neoclassical columns and arches. "Those buildings work well in the British climate. That style, ordinary people like. It doesn't win competitions, but it is popular with the people who use them," he says.

People who have worked with Leahy say he is smart and hard working. He also demands, and generally receives, great loyalty. This is an asset — up to a point. As for his faults, one former colleague who is otherwise an admirer, reckoned that he can be stubborn and "would be perfectly capable of leading the Charge of the Light Brigade". But at this stage, he added, heroic failure seems very unlikely.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### 'Glass in drink' case not over

From Mr J. A. Gorman. Sir, I must take issue with your report that British Airways won a decisive courtroom victory against me in my "Glass in the drink" action (February 13). This action is far from decided. His Honour Judge Nicholas Medawar, QC, struck out the action last November. Despite my counsel presenting copious medical evidence, signed by four doctors, the same judge effectively refused even to allow me to be heard under oath. Judge Medawar's display of ridicule and judicial hostility towards my counsel was astounding. My solicitors were immediately instructed to lodge notice of appeal, alleging judicial bias leading to this perverse judgment.

Finally, to clarify so-called "doubts over medical evidence", all of the various medical reports of the serious injuries sustained after the "Glass in the drink" incident is available for inspection, and confirm without doubt that such injury did occur as alleged. Yours faithfully, JOHN GORMAN, Parque Residencia, Club Atlantis, Bungalow 210, San Eugenio, 38600, Playa de las Americas, Adeje, Tenerife, Canary Isles.

### Rail chaos should be a warning sign

From Mrs Brenda Benson. Sir, With the chaos at South West Trains, one of the first private rail companies, we are seeing just what a failure rail privatisation is for the travelling public.

Thousands of commuters are being left waiting on station platforms because the company chose to put its shareholders first and let 10 per cent of its train drivers go before the alternative arrangements for keeping the trains running were in place. And all this just weeks before the general election at a time when transport ministers are desperately trying to talk up rail privatisation. It makes you fear for the future of the railways if the Tories win again.

This Government destroyed the coal industry just months after the last election. How long would it take another Tory government and the new private rail companies to decide that the sums don't add up after all — and do the same to Britain's railways? Yours faithfully, BRENDA BENSON, 14 Percival Road, Feltham, Middlesex.

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# Lex prevails in a tough market to lift profits

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Lex Service, Britain's largest motor dealer, continued their recovery yesterday after the company said that it had overcome tough market conditions to achieve a 22 per cent increase in underlying pre-tax profits last year.

The shares rose 13p, to 344½p, after it said that its vehicle leasing and Hyundai importing divisions were offsetting slow growth from its new-car dealerships.

Sir Trevor Chinn, chairman, said that the largest vehicle manufacturers were losing their grip of the new car market as customers looked for more variety. "What is happening is that Ford and

Vauxhall and Rover are losing market share," he said. "The market is more fluid because people want to be more individual, and companies are giving their employees a lot more choice [of company car]. The problem for Ford is that the Mondeo is a bog-standard car."

Lex's Hyundai Importing operation broke into profit last year, making £5.4 million against a loss of £900,000 last time. The number of Hyundais registered rose by 36 per cent over the year, to 19,000.

Overall, pre-tax profits rose to £51.4 million before exceptional items of £42.2 million, on sales that were static at £1.5 billion. After a slightly lower tax rate of 27 per cent (28 per cent), earnings strengthened to 31.5p a share (20.4p).

A final dividend of 9.0p per share brings the total for the year to 16p (15p). Lex's lift trucks division continued to be afflicted by the downturn in the sector. Its profits declined slightly to £12.5 million (£12.8 million). The company attributed this to the increased durability of trucks, and said that it plans to mount a recovery by strengthening its sales efforts.

The company also said that its dealerships, which lifted profits by 8.3 per cent to £14.3 million over the year, were still delivering inadequate returns. The higher profits were drawn from 62 dealerships, against the 86 that were operating at the start of the year. It has also reduced the capital employed in its retail operations, from £155 million to £119 million.

Lex said that it is still in the early stages of reorganising the remaining dealerships, and is in talks with Ford and Rover about how to continue. Its smaller and less profitable dealerships will be sold off while a few of the larger dealerships — more favoured by the car manufacturers — will change marque.

## Changes in boardroom for Boots

BOOTS, the retailer, announced boardroom changes yesterday (Sarah Cunningham writes). Sir Michael Angus, chairman, has agreed to stay on for one more year to July 1998. He will then become deputy chairman and Lord Blyth, deputy chairman and chief executive, will become executive chairman. Additionally, two executive directors are to become joint group managing directors with immediate effect. They are Steve Russell, managing director of Boots the Chemists and David Thompson, finance director. Mr Russell will add international retail development to his portfolio, while Mr Thompson will add Do It All and Boots Healthcare International to his. Brian Whalan, managing director of Halfords, is to retire in July for personal reasons.



Sir Trevor Chinn, chairman of Lex, which prospered despite fluid market conditions

## Scholl in move to unify its brand

By ERIC REGULY

SCHOLL, the footwear company, yesterday confirmed that it has taken the first step in gaining control of the brand outside of Europe with the purchase of Scholl Latin America for an initial payment of \$12.5 million.

The acquisition, reported in *The Times* earlier this month, is expected to be followed by negotiations to purchase Scholl's operations in North America from Schering-Plough, the American pharmaceuticals group.

The three Scholl companies in the Americas and in Europe have been separate entities since 1988, when Schering-Plough hived off its international operations.

Stuart Wallis, chairman of Scholl said: "The acquisition of Scholl Latin America is seen as an important step in exercising greater control of the Scholl brand worldwide and provides access to markets in Mexico and Latin America with substantial growth potential."

Scholl Latin America, which was owned by private investors, had net assets last year of \$3 million and operating profits of \$1.35 million. Scholl has agreed to pay an additional \$5.25 million in each of the next two years, raising the potential price to \$23 million, depending on the achievement of sales and profit targets.

Scholl would not comment on its talks with Schering-Plough. Scholl would like to own Scholl North America outright or set up a Schering-Scholl joint venture that would own the operations in the two continents.

## Compensation to chief slows BSM

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BSM, the driving school group, has pushed its full-year profits below last year's level with a payment of £350,000 to Paul Massey, its chief executive, for loss of office.

Richard Glover, the managing director, is taking over immediately as chief executive for the 12 months to December 27 was £5.27 million

No new managing director has been appointed. The company said Mr Massey, who has been with BSM for 12 years, was leaving "to pursue other interests". He will be a consultant to the group.

The compensation payment means that pre-tax profits declined 2 per cent. The figure for the 12 months to December 27 was £5.27 million

compared with £5.38 million. Mr Glover said trading in the first few weeks of this year had been poor, largely because of bad weather. This time last year business was booming before the introduction of the written theory test.

As one way of tackling the flat market BSM is planning to introduce computerised driving simulators later this

year. It is investing £500,000 in converting French technology and buying ten simulators for a trial in September. If successful, the simulators will be installed around the country. Mr Glover said any resulting increase in revenue will not be seen until 1998.

The final dividend is 5.00p (4.6p), payable on May 12. It makes 7.59 (6.9p) for the year.

## Vaux sells nursing homes subsidiary

VAUX GROUP, the brewing and hotels group, is selling St Andrews Homes, its nursing homes subsidiary, for a maximum consideration of £43.2 million. The buyer is Highland Group, a care home group based in Edinburgh. St Andrews operates 38 care homes in the Midlands, North of England and Scotland. The net book value of the assets being sold was £40.4 million at the end of September 30. In the last financial year the business earned pre-tax profits of £3.7 million.

The consideration comprises £35 million in cash payable on completion, £5.2 million of loan notes and a payout of up to £3 million payable three years after completion of the sale. Sir Paul Nicholson, chairman of Vaux, said: "This is an excellent result for our shareholders. We have achieved full value for St Andrews, which will release resources for investment in our core businesses of brewing and pubs and hotels."

## Amec takes slice of Spie

SHARES in Amec rose by 11p, to 121½p, yesterday after the UK construction and civil engineering company said that it had completed the acquisition of Spie Batignolles, in partnership with the French contractor's employees, from Schneider for £350 million. Amec will hold a 41.6 per cent interest in the business. Following the transaction, a further £12.5 million is being invested in Spie through capital increases. The offer to Spie employees resulted in about 12,000 of them contributing £270 million for a 58.4 per cent holding.

## Hoya boost for Wales

HOYA, the Japanese spectacle lens manufacturer, announced a £10 million expansion at its Wrexham plant in north Wales. The company is building a factory that will double the workforce from 100 to 200. Construction is under way, as is recruitment of the 100 new staff. The factory will enable the company to expand its output of scratch-resistant plastic lenses, which are supplied to opticians across the UK. Hoya has operated in north Wales since 1980 and has seen its turnover increase from £9 million to £12 million last year. Further growth is expected this year.

## Knitwear pay pact

MINIMUM pay rates for thousands of hosiery and knitwear workers will increase by 11p an hour to £3.20 under a deal agreed yesterday. Wages will rise by 2.5 per cent from April and workers will receive two days' paid paternity leave for the first time. The 25,000 workers in England and Wales covered by the agreement will also receive an extra day's paid compassionate leave. The deal between the Knitting Industries Federation and the National Union of Knitwear, Footwear and Apparel Trades, will affect mainly women.

## Quarto earnings ahead

QUARTO GROUP, the book publisher, achieved an 11 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £7.81 million in 1996, with acquisitions helping to offset the adverse impact of a strong pound towards the end of the year. Earnings rose 7 per cent to 26.5p a share. A final dividend of 5.8p a share lifts the total 10 per cent, to 8p. The shares rose 11p to 238½p yesterday. Laurence Orbach, chairman and chief executive, said major markets continue to be strong, with some evidence the British market is beginning to improve after a lengthy recession.

## Slide for Samsung

A SLUMP in computer chip prices sent net profits of South Korea's Samsung Electronics, a significant investor in the UK, down 93 per cent to 164.16 billion won (£117 million) in 1996, but analysts expect a recovery this year by the world's largest memory chip maker. The company said that a freefall in prices of 16-megabit dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips hampered profits. DRAM sales are about 35 per cent of sales. Prices of 16-megabit DRAM chips fell about 80 per cent in 1996 because of global oversupply.

## Renishaw lifts payout

SHARES of Renishaw rose 21p to 359p yesterday after the specialist engineering company reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £10.8 million from £8.2 million in the six months to December 31. Earnings were 10.84p a share, compared with 8.89p, and the interim dividend is lifted to 2.89p a share from 2.41p. The company, which generates almost 90 per cent of sales overseas, said the record profits were achieved in spite of the recent strength of sterling. Sales rose 11 per cent to £39.7 million.

## FII passes interim

FII GROUP, the manufacturer and supplier of footwear to Marks & Spencer, is passing the interim dividend despite reducing losses to £327,000 before tax from £3.6 million in the half-year to the end of November. Losses were 1.9p a share, down from 15.6p previously. Last year the company paid an interim dividend of 6p but did not pay a final dividend. Shares of FII were unchanged at 100p yesterday. In September the company raised £7.3 million from a rights issue of new shares at 105p each.

## Green Property up

GREEN PROPERTY, the property development company based in the Irish Republic, reported a 34 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to Ir£8.5 million in 1996. Green's Irish portfolio benefited from the general rise in property prices in the Republic. In the UK a string of acquisitions made during 1996, valued at more than Ir£120 million, performed well. Earnings rose almost 14 per cent to Ir£13.73p a share. Net assets rose to Ir£24p a share from Ir£19.4p. A final dividend of Ir£3.3p lifts the total almost 9 per cent to Ir£4.6p.

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CHANGING TIMES

## Signet does new deal with banks

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SIGNET, the former Ratners jewellery retailing company, took a step towards resolving its complex financial problems yesterday with the announcement of new long-term financing arrangements.

The group has set up a three-year \$360 million credit facility with a new syndicate of banks. The new syndicate is led by BZW, Midland Bank, Banque Paribas and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

This means that the banks which were involved in the group's existing \$450 million two-year facility agreement, which was due to expire at the end of June, will be repaid in full.

The company said that talks aimed at a reconstruction of its share capital structure were continuing. It will have to persuade holders of preference shares to agree to convert all their shares into new ordinary shares. A company spokesman said that it was impossible to say how long the talks would go on. He said: "Obviously the board would like to get it sorted out as quickly as possible."

## Fisher hit by cockle devastation

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ALBERT FISHER, the food processing and distribution group, said that its most recent harvest of cockles had been severely restricted by the devastation of the cockle beds in 1996.

The cockle beds were damaged after the water froze off the north coast of Holland early last year. It will not be clear until April. Cockles usually account for around 10 per cent of Albert Fisher's annual profits.

In a trading statement for the half-year to February 28 released yesterday, the company said that the poor cockle harvest had been partially offset by a much improved fresh mussel market. It said the remainder of the seafood division has made good progress.

The European food processing division is performing in line with budget. In the European fresh produce division, which earns the greater part of its profits in the second half of the financial year, the vegetable markets remain difficult, however.

It said some markets have shown improvement since the new year. The shares were unchanged at 43½p.

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(In members' voluntary liquidation)  
Company number: 1476614  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF SWIFT LEVICK SUPERMAGLOT LIMITED  
On 10 February 1997 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Roger Marsh and Ian Gilford Powell of Poles Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds, LS1 2BN were appointed liquidators by the shareholders. The liquidators give notice, pursuant to Rule 4.122A of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the creditors of the Company must send details, in writing, of any claims against the Company to the liquidators, at the above address by 31 March 1997, which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidators also give notice that they will consider a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. The Company is able to pay all its known creditors in full. 10 February 1997  
ROGER MARSH  
IAN GILFORD POWELL  
Joint Liquidators

**SWIFT LEVICK ENGINEERING LIMITED**  
(In members' voluntary liquidation)  
Company number: 2049732  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF SWIFT LEVICK ENGINEERING LIMITED  
On 10 February 1997 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Roger Marsh and Ian Gilford Powell of Poles Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds, LS1 2BN were appointed liquidators by the shareholders. The liquidators give notice, pursuant to Rule 4.122A of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the creditors of the Company must send details, in writing, of any claims against the Company to the liquidators, at the above address by 31 March 1997, which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidators also give notice that they will consider a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. The Company is able to pay all its known creditors in full. 10 February 1997  
ROGER MARSH  
IAN GILFORD POWELL  
Joint Liquidators

**THOMAS CONRAD EUROPE LIMITED**  
(In members' voluntary liquidation)  
Company number: 3048222  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THOMAS CONRAD EUROPE LIMITED  
On 15 February 1997 the above named company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Anthony Victor, James of John Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders. The liquidators give notice under the provisions of Rule 4.122A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claims against the company to the liquidators, at Poles Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds, LS1 2BN, by 31 March 1997 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidators also give notice that they will consider a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. The Company is able to pay all its known creditors in full. 10 February 1997  
ANTHONY VICTOR  
JAMES OF JOHN WATERHOUSE  
Joint Liquidators

**THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**  
In the matter of  
**CITIZEN PROPERTIES II PLC**  
IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION  
We, Peter John Robertson, James of John Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds, LS1 2BN, give notice to creditors with Rule 4.122A(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that we were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named company on 19 February 1997.  
Signed: P. J. Robertson  
James of John Waterhouse  
Joint Liquidators  
Date: 22/2/97

**THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**  
In the matter of  
**CITIZEN PROPERTIES II PLC**  
IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION  
We, Peter John Robertson, James of John Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds, LS1 2BN, give notice to creditors with Rule 4.122A(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that we were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named company on 19 February 1997.  
Signed: P. J. Robertson  
James of John Waterhouse  
Joint Liquidators  
Date: 22/2/97

### LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION

PLEASE TELEPHONE  
0171-680 4878 OR FAX 0171-481 9213  
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.



## Shares end at best levels of the day

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

Shares

TRADING PERIOD: Set the previous day's close price/earnings ratios are

SPY	Low	High	Open	Close	%	P/E	Div	Yield	Vol
100	100	100	100	100					
101	101	101	101	101					
102	102	102	102	102					
103	103	103	103	103					
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ENGINEERING VEHICLES

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...t levels of  
...ess days after the day of trade.  
...e when a stock is ex-divide

12M %	5Y	Company	Code	Price	Div	Yld	PE	Div	Yld
195%	15	Marriott	622	200	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
334%	25	Marriott	621	82	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
311%	25	Marriott	620	360	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
150%	15	Marriott	619	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
145%	15	Marriott	618	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
140%	15	Marriott	617	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
135%	15	Marriott	616	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
130%	15	Marriott	615	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
125%	15	Marriott	614	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
120%	15	Marriott	613	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
115%	15	Marriott	612	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
110%	15	Marriott	611	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
105%	15	Marriott	610	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
100%	15	Marriott	609	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
95%	15	Marriott	608	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
90%	15	Marriott	607	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
85%	15	Marriott	606	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
80%	15	Marriott	605	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
75%	15	Marriott	604	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
70%	15	Marriott	603	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
65%	15	Marriott	602	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
60%	15	Marriott	601	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
55%	15	Marriott	600	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
50%	15	Marriott	599	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
45%	15	Marriott	598	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
40%	15	Marriott	597	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
35%	15	Marriott	596	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
30%	15	Marriott	595	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
25%	15	Marriott	594	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
20%	15	Marriott	593	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
15%	15	Marriott	592	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
10%	15	Marriott	591	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
5%	15	Marriott	590	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
0%	15	Marriott	589	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-5%	15	Marriott	588	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-10%	15	Marriott	587	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-15%	15	Marriott	586	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-20%	15	Marriott	585	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-25%	15	Marriott	584	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-30%	15	Marriott	583	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-35%	15	Marriott	582	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-40%	15	Marriott	581	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-45%	15	Marriott	580	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-50%	15	Marriott	579	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-55%	15	Marriott	578	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-60%	15	Marriott	577	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-65%	15	Marriott	576	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-70%	15	Marriott	575	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-75%	15	Marriott	574	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-80%	15	Marriott	573	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-85%	15	Marriott	572	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-90%	15	Marriott	571	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-95%	15	Marriott	570	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-100%	15	Marriott	569	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-105%	15	Marriott	568	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-110%	15	Marriott	567	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-115%	15	Marriott	566	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-120%	15	Marriott	565	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-125%	15	Marriott	564	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-130%	15	Marriott	563	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-135%	15	Marriott	562	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-140%	15	Marriott	561	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-145%	15	Marriott	560	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-150%	15	Marriott	559	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-155%	15	Marriott	558	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-160%	15	Marriott	557	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-165%	15	Marriott	556	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-170%	15	Marriott	555	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-175%	15	Marriott	554	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-180%	15	Marriott	553	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-185%	15	Marriott	552	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-190%	15	Marriott	551	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-195%	15	Marriott	550	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-200%	15	Marriott	549	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-205%	15	Marriott	548	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-210%	15	Marriott	547	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-215%	15	Marriott	546	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-220%	15	Marriott	545	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-225%	15	Marriott	544	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-230%	15	Marriott	543	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-235%	15	Marriott	542	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-240%	15	Marriott	541	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-245%	15	Marriott	540	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-250%	15	Marriott	539	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-255%	15	Marriott	538	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-260%	15	Marriott	537	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-265%	15	Marriott	536	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-270%	15	Marriott	535	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-275%	15	Marriott	534	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-280%	15	Marriott	533	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-285%	15	Marriott	532	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-290%	15	Marriott	531	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-295%	15	Marriott	530	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-300%	15	Marriott	529	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-305%	15	Marriott	528	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-310%	15	Marriott	527	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-315%	15	Marriott	526	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-320%	15	Marriott	525	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-325%	15	Marriott	524	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-330%	15	Marriott	523	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-335%	15	Marriott	522	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-340%	15	Marriott	521	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-345%	15	Marriott	520	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-350%	15	Marriott	519	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-355%	15	Marriott	518	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-360%	15	Marriott	517	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-365%	15	Marriott	516	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-370%	15	Marriott	515	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-375%	15	Marriott	514	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-380%	15	Marriott	513	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-385%	15	Marriott	512	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-390%	15	Marriott	511	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-395%	15	Marriott	510	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-400%	15	Marriott	509	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-405%	15	Marriott	508	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-410%	15	Marriott	507	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-415%	15	Marriott	506	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-420%	15	Marriott	505	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-425%	15	Marriott	504	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-430%	15	Marriott	503	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-435%	15	Marriott	502	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-440%	15	Marriott	501	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-445%	15	Marriott	500	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-450%	15	Marriott	499	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-455%	15	Marriott	498	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-460%	15	Marriott	497	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-465%	15	Marriott	496	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-470%	15	Marriott	495	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-475%	15	Marriott	494	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-480%	15	Marriott	493	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-485%	15	Marriott	492	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-490%	15	Marriott	491	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-495%	15	Marriott	490	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-500%	15	Marriott	489	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-505%	15	Marriott	488	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-510%	15	Marriott	487	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-515%	15	Marriott	486	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-520%	15	Marriott	485	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-525%	15	Marriott	484	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-530%	15	Marriott	483	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-535%	15	Marriott	482	100	0.00	0.00	11.0	0.00	0.00
-540%									

The day

Changes are calculated on end. Changes, yields and

10/20/91	10/19/91	% chg.	10/20/91	10/19/91	% chg.	10/20/91	10/19/91	% chg.	10/20/91
100	100	0.00%	100	100	0.00%	100	100	0.00%	100
101	101	0.00%	101	101	0.00%	101	101	0.00%	101
102	102	0.00%	102	102	0.00%	102	102	0.00%	102
103	103	0.00%	103	103	0.00%	103	103	0.00%	103
104	104	0.00%	104	104	0.00%	104	104	0.00%	104
105	105	0.00%	105	105	0.00%	105	105	0.00%	105
106	106	0.00%	106	106	0.00%	106	106	0.00%	106
107	107	0.00%	107	107	0.00%	107	107	0.00%	107
108	108	0.00%	108	108	0.00%	108	108	0.00%	108
109	109	0.00%	109	109	0.00%	109	109	0.00%	109
110	110	0.00%	110	110	0.00%	110	110	0.00%	110
111	111	0.00%	111	111	0.00%	111	111	0.00%	111
112	112	0.00%	112	112	0.00%	112	112	0.00%	112
113	113	0.00%	113	113	0.00%	113	113	0.00%	113
114	114	0.00%	114	114	0.00%	114	114	0.00%	114
115	115	0.00%	115	115	0.00%	115	115	0.00%	115
116	116	0.00%	116	116	0.00%	116	116	0.00%	116
117	117	0.00%	117	117	0.00%	117	117	0.00%	117
118	118	0.00%	118	118	0.00%	118	118	0.00%	118
119	119	0.00%	119	119	0.00%	119	119	0.00%	119
120	120	0.00%	120	120	0.00%	120	120	0.00%	120
121	121	0.00%	121	121	0.00%	121	121	0.00%	121
122	122	0.00%	122	122	0.00%	122	122	0.00%	122
123	123	0.00%	123	123	0.00%	123	123	0.00%	123
124	124	0.00%	124	124	0.00%	124	124	0.00%	124
125	125	0.00%	125	125	0.00%	125	125	0.00%	125
126	126	0.00%	126	126	0.00%	126	126	0.00%	126
127	127	0.00%	127	127	0.00%	127	127	0.00%	127
128	128	0.00%	128	128	0.00%	128	128	0.00%	128
129	129	0.00%	129	129	0.00%	129	129	0.00%	129
130	130	0.00%	130	130	0.00%	130	130	0.00%	130
131	131	0.00%	131	131	0.00%	131	131	0.00%	131
132	132	0.00%	132	132	0.00%	132	132	0.00%	132
133	133	0.00%	133	133	0.00%	133	133	0.00%	133
134	134	0.00%	134	134	0.00%	134	134	0.00%	134
135	135	0.00%	135	135	0.00%	135	135	0.00%	135
136	136	0.00%	136	136	0.00%	136	136	0.00%	136
137	137	0.00%	137	137	0.00%	137	137	0.00%	137
138	138	0.00%	138	138	0.00%	138	138	0.00%	138
139	139	0.00%	139	139	0.00%	139	139	0.00%	139
140	140	0.00%	140	140	0.00%	140	140	0.00%	140
141	141	0.00%	141	141	0.00%	141	141	0.00%	141
142	142	0.00%	142	142	0.00%	142	142	0.00%	142
143	143	0.00%	143	143	0.00%	143	143	0.00%	143
144	144	0.00%	144	144	0.00%	144	144	0.00%	144
145	145	0.00%	145	145	0.00%	145	145	0.00%	145
146	146	0.00%	146	146	0.00%	146	146	0.00%	146
147	147	0.00%	147	147	0.00%	147	147	0.00%	147
148	148	0.00%	148	148	0.00%	148	148	0.00%	148
149	149	0.00%	149	149	0.00%	149	149	0.00%	149
150	150	0.00%	150	150	0.00%	150	150	0.00%	150
151	151	0.00%	151	151	0.00%	151	151	0.00%	151
152	152	0.00%	152	152	0.00%	152	152	0.00%	152
153	153	0.00%	153	153	0.00%	153	153	0.00%	153
154	154	0.00%	154	154	0.00%	154	154	0.00%	154
155	155	0.00%	155	155	0.00%	155	155	0.00%	155
156	156	0.00%	156	156	0.00%	156	156	0.00%	156
157	157	0.00%	157	157	0.00%	157	157	0.00%	157
158	158	0.00%	158	158	0.00%	158	158	0.00%	158
159	159	0.00%	159	159	0.00%	159	159	0.00%	159
160	160	0.00%	160	160	0.00%	160	160	0.00%	160
161	161	0.00%	161	161	0.00%	161	161	0.00%	161
162	162	0.00%	162	162	0.00%	162	162	0.00%	162
163	163	0.00%	163	163	0.00%	163	163	0.00%	163
164	164	0.00%	164	164	0.00%	164	164	0.00%	164
165	165	0.00%	165	165	0.00%	165	165	0.00%	165
166	166	0.00%	166	166	0.00%	166	166	0.00%	166
167	167	0.00%	167	167	0.00%	167	167	0.00%	167
168	168	0.00%	168	168	0.00%	168	168	0.00%	168
169	169	0.00%	169	169	0.00%	169	169	0.00%	169
170	170	0.00%	170	170	0.00%	170	170	0.00%	170
171	171	0.00%	171	171	0.00%	171	171	0.00%	171
172	172	0.00%	172	172	0.00%	172	172	0.00%	172
173	173	0.00%	173	173	0.00%	173	173	0.00%	173
174	174	0.00%	174	174	0.00%	174	174	0.00%	174
175	175	0.00%	175	175	0.00%	175	175	0.00%	175
176	176	0.00%	176	176	0.00%	176	176	0.00%	176
177	177	0.00%	177	177	0.00%	177	177	0.00%	177
178	178	0.00%	178	178	0.00%	178	178	0.00%	178
179	179	0.00%	179	179	0.00%	179	179	0.00%	179
180	180	0.00%	180	180	0.00%	180	180	0.00%	180
181	181	0.00%	181	181	0.00%	181	181	0.00%	181
182	182	0.00%	182	182	0.00%	182	182	0.00%	182
183	183	0.00%	183	183	0.00%	183	183	0.00%	183
184	184	0.00%	184	184	0.00%	184	184	0.00%	184
185	185	0.00%	185	185	0.00%	185	185	0.00%	185
186	186	0.00%	186	186	0.00%	186	186	0.00%	186
187	187	0.00%	187	187	0.00%	187	187	0.00%	187
188	188	0.00%	188	188	0.00%	188	188	0.00%	188
189	189	0.00%	189	189	0.00%	189	189	0.00%	189
190	190	0.00%	190	190	0.00%	190	190	0.00%	190
191	191	0.00%	191	191	0.00%	191	191	0.00%	191
192	192	0.00%	192	192	0.00%	192	192	0.00%	192
193	193	0.00%	193	193	0.00%	193	193	0.00%	193
194	194	0.00%	194	194	0.00%	194	194	0.00%	194
195	195	0.00%	195	195	0.00%	195	195	0.00%	195
196	196	0.00%	196	196	0.00%	196	196	0.00%	196
197	197	0.00%	197	197	0.00%	197	197	0.00%	197
198	198	0.00%	198	198	0.00%	198	198	0.00%	198
199	199	0.00%	199	199	0.00%	199	199	0.00%	199
200	200	0.00%	200	200	0.00%	200	200	0.00%	200

MINING

10/20/91	10/19/91	% chg.	10/20/91	10/19/91	% chg.	10/20/91	10/19/91	% chg.	10/20/91
100	100	0.00%	100	100	0.00%	100	100	0.00%	100
101	101	0.00%	101	101	0.00%	101	101	0.00%	101
102	102	0.00%	102	102	0.00%	102	102	0.00%	102
103	103	0.00%	103	103	0.00%	103	103	0.00%	103
104	104	0.00%	104	104	0.00%	104	104	0.00%	104
105	105	0.00%	105	105	0.00%	105	105	0.00%	105
106	106	0.00%	106	106	0.00%	106	106	0.00%	106
107	107	0.00%	107	107	0.00%	107	107	0.00%	107
108	108	0.00%	108	108	0.00%	108	108	0.00%	108
109	109	0.00%	109	109	0.00%	109	109	0.00%	109
110	110	0.00%	110	110	0.00%	110	110	0.00%	110
111	111	0.00%	111	111	0.00%	111	111	0.00%	111
112	112	0.00%	112	112	0.00%	112	112	0.00%	112
113	113	0.00%	113	113	0.00%	113	113	0.00%	113
114	114	0.00%	114	114	0.00%	114	114	0.00%	114
115	115	0.00%	115	115	0.00%	115	115	0.00%	115
116	116	0.00%	116	116	0.00%	116	116	0.00%	116
117	117	0.00%	117	117	0.00%	117	117	0.00%	117
118	118	0.00%	118	118	0.00%	118	118	0.00%	118
119	119	0.00%	119	119	0.00%	119	119	0.00%	119
120	120	0.00%	120	120	0.00%	120	120	0.00%	120
121	121	0.00%	121	121	0.00%	121	121	0.00%	121
122	122	0.00%	122	122	0.00%	122	122	0.00%	122
123	123	0.00%	123	123	0.00%	123	123	0.00%	123
124	124	0.00%	124	124	0.00%	124	124	0.00%	124
125	125	0.00%	125	125	0.00%	125	125	0.00%	125
126	126	0.00%	126	126	0.00%	126	126	0.00%	126
127	127	0.00%	127	127	0.00%	127	127	0.00%	127
128	128	0.00%	128	128	0.00%	128	128	0.00%	128
129	129	0.00%	129	129	0.00%	129	129	0.00%	129
130	130	0.00%	130	130	0.00%	130	130	0.00%	130
131	131	0.00%	131	131	0.00%	131	131	0.00%	131
132	132	0.00%	132	132	0.00%	132	132	0.00%	132
133	133	0.00%	133	133	0.00%	133	133	0.00%	133
134	134	0.00%	134	134	0.00%	134	134	0.00%	134
135	135	0.00%	135	135	0.00%	135	135	0.00%	135
136	136	0.00%	136	136	0.00%	136	136	0.00%	136
137	137	0.00%	137	137	0.00%	137	137	0.00%	137
138	138								

Price	Low	High	Company	Price	Low	High	Company
15A	27	120	Reliant Tel	61A	11	26	182
15B	27	120	Reliant Tel	61B	11	26	182
15C	27	120	Reliant Tel	61C	11	26	182
15D	27	120	Reliant Tel	61D	11	26	182
15E	27	120	Reliant Tel	61E	11	26	182
15F	27	120	Reliant Tel	61F	11	26	182
15G	27	120	Reliant Tel	61G	11	26	182
15H	27	120	Reliant Tel	61H	11	26	182
15I	27	120	Reliant Tel	61I	11	26	182
15J	27	120	Reliant Tel	61J	11	26	182
15K	27	120	Reliant Tel	61K	11	26	182
15L	27	120	Reliant Tel	61L	11	26	182
15M	27	120	Reliant Tel	61M	11	26	182
15N	27	120	Reliant Tel	61N	11	26	182
15O	27	120	Reliant Tel	61O	11	26	182
15P	27	120	Reliant Tel	61P	11	26	182
15Q	27	120	Reliant Tel	61Q	11	26	182
15R	27	120	Reliant Tel	61R	11	26	182
15S	27	120	Reliant Tel	61S	11	26	182
15T	27	120	Reliant Tel	61T	11	26	182
15U	27	120	Reliant Tel	61U	11	26	182
15V	27	120	Reliant Tel	61V	11	26	182
15W	27	120	Reliant Tel	61W	11	26	182
15X	27	120	Reliant Tel	61X	11	26	182
15Y	27	120	Reliant Tel	61Y	11	26	182
15Z	27	120	Reliant Tel	61Z	11	26	182
16A	27	120	Reliant Tel	62A	11	26	182
16B	27	120	Reliant Tel	62B	11	26	182
16C	27	120	Reliant Tel	62C	11	26	182
16D	27	120	Reliant Tel	62D	11	26	182
16E	27	120	Reliant Tel	62E	11	26	182
16F	27	120	Reliant Tel	62F	11	26	182
16G	27	120	Reliant Tel	62G	11	26	182
16H	27	120	Reliant Tel	62H	11	26	182
16I	27	120	Reliant Tel	62I	11	26	182
16J	27	120	Reliant Tel	62J	11	26	182
16K	27	120	Reliant Tel	62K	11	26	182
16L	27	120	Reliant Tel	62L	11	26	182
16M	27	120	Reliant Tel	62M	11	26	182
16N	27	120	Reliant Tel	62N	11	26	182
16O	27	120	Reliant Tel	62O	11	26	182
16P	27	120	Reliant Tel	62P	11	26	182
16Q	27	120	Reliant Tel	62Q	11	26	182
16R	27	120	Reliant Tel	62R	11	26	182
16S	27	120	Reliant Tel	62S	11	26	182
16T	27	120	Reliant Tel	62T	11	26	182
16U	27	120	Reliant Tel	62U	11	26	182
16V	27	120	Reliant Tel	62V	11	26	182
16W	27	120	Reliant Tel	62W	11	26	182
16X	27	120	Reliant Tel	62X	11	26	182
16Y	27	120	Reliant Tel	62Y	11	26	182
16Z	27	120	Reliant Tel	62Z	11	26	182
17A	27	120	Reliant Tel	63A	11	26	

[illegible]

## What is it that separates those who give advice from those who need it?

**THE HENLEY MBA**  
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	1980/81	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39	2039/40	2040/41	2041/42	2042/43	2043/44	2044/45	2045/46	2046/47	2047/48	2048/49	2049/50	2050/51	2051/52	2052/53	2053/54	2054/55	2055/56	2056/57	2057/58	2058/59	2059/60	2060/61	2061/62	2062/63	2063/64	2064/65	2065/66	2066/67	2067/68	2068/69	2069/70	2070/71	2071/72	2072/73	2073/74	2074/75	2075/76	2076/77	2077/78	2078/79	2079/80	2080/81	2081/82	2082/83	2083/84	2084/85	2085/86	2086/87	2087/88	2088/89	2089/90	2090/91	2091/92	2092/93	2093/94	2094/95	2095/96	2096/97	2097/98	2098/99	2099/00	2100/01	2101/02	2102/03	2103/04	2104/05	2105/06	2106/07	2107/08	2108/09	2109/10	2110/11	2111/12	2112/13	2113/14	2114/15	2115/16	2116/17	2117/18	2118/19	2119/20	2120/21	2121/22	2122/23	2123/24	2124/25	2125/26	2126/27	2127/28	2128/29	2129/30	2130/31	2131/32	2132/33	2133/34	2134/35	2135/36	2136/37	2137/38	2138/39	2139/40	2140/41	2141/42	2142/43	2143/44	2144/45	2145/46	2146/47	2147/48	2148/49	2149/50	2150/51	2151/52	2152/53	2153/54	2154/55	2155/56	2156/57	2157/58	2158/59	2159/60	2160/61	2161/62	2162/63	2163/64	2164/65	2165/66	2166/67	2167/68	2168/69	2169/70	2170/71	2171/72	2172/73	2173/74	2174/75	2175/76	2176/77	2177/78	2178/79	2179/80	2180/81	2181/82	2182/83	2183/84	2184/85	2185/86	2186/87	2187/88	2188/89	2189/90	2190/91	2191/92	2192/93	2193/94	2194/95	2195/96	2196/97	2197/98	2198/99	2199/00	2200/01	2201/02	2202/03	2203/04	2204/05	2205/06	2206/07	2207/08	2208/09	2209/10	2210/11	2211/12	2212/13	2213/14	2214/15	2215/16	2216/17	2217/18	2218/19	2219/20	2220/21	2221/22	2222/23	2223/24	2224/25	2225/26	2226/27	2227/28	2228/29	2229/30	2230/31	2231/32	2232/33	2233/34	2234/35	2235/36	2236/37	2237/38	2238/39	2239/40	2240/41	2241/42	2242/43	2243/44	2244/45	2245/46	2246/47	2247/48	2248/49	2249/50	2250/51	2251/52	2252/53	2253/54	2254/55	2255/56	2256/57	2257/58	2258/59	2259/60	2260/61	2261/62	2262/63	2263/64	2264/65	2265/66	2266/67	2267/68	2268/69	2269/70	2270/71	2271/72	2272/73	2273/74	2274/75	2275/76	2276/77	2277/78	2278/79	2279/80	2280/81	2281/82	2282/83	2283/84	2284/85	2285/86	2286/87	2287/88	2288/89	2289/90	2290/91	2291/92	2292/93	2293/94	2294/95	2295/96	2296/97	2297/98	2298/99	2299/00	2300/01	2301/02	2302/03	2303/04	2304/05	2305/06	2306/07	2307/08	2308/09	2309/10	2310/11	2311/12	2312/13	2313/14	2314/15	2315/16	2316/17	2317/18	2318/19	2319/20	2320/21	2321/22	2322/23	2323/24	2324/25	2325/26	2326/27	2327/28	2328/29	2329/30	2330/31	2331/32	2332/33	2333/34	2334/35	2335/36	2336/37	2337/38	2338/39	2339/40	2340/41	2341/42	2342/43	2343/44	2344/45	2345/46	2346/47	2347/48	2348/49	2349/50	2350/51	2351/52	2352/53	2353/54	2354/55	2355/56	2356/57	2357/58	2358/59	2359/60	2360/61	2361/62	2362/63	2363/64	2364/65	2365/66	2366/67	2367/68	2368/69	2369/70	2370/71	2371/72	2372/73	2373/74	2374/75	2375/76	2376/77	2377/78	2378/79	2379/80	2380/81	2381/82	2382/83	2383/84	2384/85	2385/86	2386/87	2387/88	2388/89	2389/90	2390/91	2391/92	2392/93	2393/94	2394/95	2395/96	2396/97	2397/98	2398/99	2399/00	2400/01	2401/02	2402/03	2403/04	2404/05	2405/06	2406/07	2407/08	2408/09	2409/10	2410/11	2411/12	2412/13	2413/14	2414/15	2415/16	2416/17	2417/18	2418/19	2419/20	2420/21	2421/22	2422/23	2423/24	2424/25	2425/26	2426/27	2427/28	2428/29	2429/30	2430/31	2431/32	2432/33	2433/34	2434/35	2435/36	2436/37	2437/38	2438/39	2439/40	2440/41	2441/42	2442/43	2443/44	2444/45	2445/46	2446/47	2447/48	2448/49	2449/50	2450/51	2451/52	2452/53	2453/54	2454/55	2455/56	2456/57	2457/58	2458/59	2459/60	2460/61	2461/62	2462/63	2463/64	2464/65	2465/66	2466/67	2467/68	2468/69	2469/70	2470/71	2471/72	2472/73	2473/74	2474/75	2475/76	2476/77	2477/78	2478/79	2479/80	2480/81	2481/82	2482/83	2483/84	2484/85	2485/86	2486/87	2487/88	2488/89	2489/90	2490/91	2491/92	2492/93	2493/94	2494/95	2495/96	2496/97	2497/98	2498/99	2499/00	2500/01	2501/02	2502/03	2503/04	2504/05	2505/06	2506/07	2507/08	2508/09	2509/10	2510/11	2511/12	2512/13	2513/14	2514/15	2515/16	2516/17	2517/18	2518/19	2519/20	2520/21	2521/22	2522/23	2523/24	2524/25	2525/26	2526/27	2527/28	2528/29	2529/30	2530/31	2531/32	2532/33	2533/34	2534/35	2535/36	2536/37	2537/38	2538/39	2539/40	2540/41	2541/42	2542/43	2543/44	2544/45	2545/46	2546/47	2547/48	2548/49	2549/50	2550/51	2551/52	2552/53	2553/54	2554/55	2555/56	2556/57	2557/58	2558/59	2559/60	2560/61	2561/62	2562/63	2563/64	2564/65	2565/66	2566/67	2567/68	2568/69	2569/70	2570/71	2571/72	2572/73	2573/74	2574/75	2575/76	2576/77	2577/78	2578/79	2579/80	2580/81	2581/82	2582/83	2583/84	2584/85	2585/86	2586/87	2587/88	2588/89	2589/90	2590/91	2591/92	2592/93	2593/94	2594/95	2595/96	2596/97	2597/98	2598/99	2599/00	2600/01	2601/02	2602/03	2603/04	2604/05	2605/06	2606/07	2607/08	2608/09	2609/10	2610/11	2611/12	2612/13	2613/14	2614/15	2615/16	2616/17	2617/18	2618/19	2619/20	2620/21	2621/22	2622/23	2623/24	2624/25	2625/26	2626/27	2627/28	2628/29	2629/30	2630/31	2631/32	2632/33	2633/34	2634/35	2635/36	2636/37	2637/38	2638/39	2639/40	2640/41	2641/42	2642/43	2643/44	2644/45	2645/46	2646/47	2647/48	2648/49	2649/50	2650/51	2651/52	2652/53	2653/54	2654/55	2655/56	2656/57	2657/58	2658/59	2659/60	2660/61	2661/62	2662/63	2663/64	2664/65	2665/66	2666/67	2667/68	2668/69	2669/70	2670/71	2671/72	2672/73	2673/74	2674/75	2675/76	2676/77	2677/78	2678/79	2679/80	2680/81	2681/82	2682/83	2683/84	2684/85	2685/86	2686/87	2687/88	2688/89	2689/90	2690/91	2691/92	2692/93	2693/94	2694/95	2695/96	2696/97	2697/98	2698/99	2699/00	2700/01	2701/02	2702/03	2703/04	2704/05	2705/06	2706/07	2707/08	2708/09	2709/10	2710/11	2711/12	2712/13	2713/14	2714/15	2715/16	2716/17	2717/18	2718/19	2719/20	2720/21	2721/22	2722/23	2723/24	2724/25	2725/26	2726/27	2727/28	2728/29	2729/30	2730/31	2731/32	2732/33	2733/34	2734/35	2735/36	2736/37	2737/38	2738/39	2739/40	2740/41	2741/42	2742/43	2743/44	2744/45	2745/46	2746/47	2747/48	2748/49	2749/50	2750/51	2751/52	2752/53	2753/54	2754/55	2755/56	2756/57	2757/58	2758/59	2759/60	2760/61	2761/62	2762/63	2763/64	2764/65	2765/66	2766/67	2767/68	2768/69	2769/70	2770/71	2771/72	2772/73	2773/74	2774/75	2775/76	2776/77	2777/78	2778/79	2779/80	2780/81	2781/82	2782/83	2783/84	2784/85	2785/86	2786/87	2787/88	2788/89	2789/90	2790/91	2791/92	2792/93	2793/94	2794/95	2795/96	2796/97	2797/98	2798/99	2799/00	2800/01	2801/02	2802/03	2803/04	2804/05	2805/06	2806/07	2807/08	2808/09	2809/10	2810/11	2811/12	2812/13	2813/14	2814/15	2815/16	2816/17	2817/18	2818/19	2819/20	2820/21	2821/22	2822/23	2823/24	2824/25	2825/26	2826/27	2827/28	2828/29	2829/30	2830/31	2831/32	2832/33	2833/34	2834/35	2835/36	2836/37	2837/38	2838/39	2839/40	2840/41	2841/42	2842/43	2843/44	2844/45	2845/46	2846/47	2847/48	2848/49	2849/50	2850/51	2851/52	2852/53	2853/54	2854/55	2855/56	2856/57	2857/58	2858/59	2859/60	2860/61	2861/62	2862/63	2863/64	2864/65	2865/66	2866/67	2867/68	2868/69	2869/70	2870/71	2871/72	2872/73	2873/74	2874/75	2875/76	2876/77	2877/78	2878/79	2879/80	2880/81	2881/82	2882/83	2883/84	2884/85	2885/86	2886/87	2887/88	2888/89	2889/90	2890/91	2891/92	2892/93	2893/94	2894/95	2895/96	2896/97	2897/98	2898/99	2899/00	2900/01	2901/02	2902/03	2903/04	2904/05	2905/06	2906/07	2907/08	2908/09	2909/10	2910/11	2911/12	2912/13	2913/14	2914/15	2915/16	2916/17	2917/18	2918/19	2919/20	2920/21	2921/22	2922/23	2923/24	2924/25	2925/26	2926/27	2927/28	2928/29	2929/30	2930/31	2931/32	2932/33	2933/34	2934/35	2935/36	2936/37	2937/38	2938/39	2939/40	2940/41	2941/42	2942/43	2943/44	2944/45	2945/46	2946/47	2947/48	2948/49	2949/50	2950/51	2951/52	2952/53	2953/54	2954/55	2955/56	2956/57	2957/58	2958/59	2959/60	2960/61	2961/62	2962/63	2963/64	2964/65	2965/66	2966/67	2967/68	2968/69	2969/70	2970/71	2971/72	2972/73	2973/74	2974/75	2975/76	2976/77	2977/78	2978/79	2979/80	2980/81	2981/82	2982/83	2983/84	2984/85	2985/86	2986/87	2987/88	2988/89	2989/90	2990/91	2991/92	2992/93	2993/94	2994/95	2995/96	2996/97	2997/98	2998/99	2999/00	3000/01	3001/02	3002/03	3003/04	3004/05	3005/06	3006/07	3007/08	3008/09	3009/10	3010/11	30
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[illegible]

set	Phase	$\alpha$	int. $\alpha$	Obs. $\alpha$	
set 11A, 2002-07	1.27 $\pm$ 1	+ 1	9.00	7.77	
set 6, 2001-07	105 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	7.66	7.66	
set 10, 2001-07	105 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	7.66	7.66	
set 5, 2009	105 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	7.61	7.61	
(B)					
set 1, 2001-07	50 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	6.90	7.32	
set 2, 2001-07	114 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	7.66	7.66	
set 3, 2012	110 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	8.00	7.52	
set 4, 2002-12	80 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	7.66	7.66	
set 7, 2001-07	105 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	7.55	7.55	
set 7A, 2011-07	103 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	7.50	7.50	
set 8, 2015	105 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	7.50	7.50	
set 9, 2017	114 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	7.66	7.66	
set 2021	107 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	7.45	7.52	
(C)					
set 1A, 2016	30 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	7.48	7.48	
set 2, 2016	32 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	7.62	7.62	
set 3, 2016	50 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	7.68	7.68	
repeated estimation set				10%	5%
set 1, 2016-1908	134 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.91	1.67	
set 2, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.40	1.41	
set 3, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 4, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 5, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 6, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 7, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 8, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 9, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 10, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 11, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 12, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 13, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 14, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 15, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 16, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
set 17, 2016-1908	180 $\pm$ 2	+ 2	2.04	1.14	
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Source: FI Information  
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omitted. No significant data. Companies in bold are  
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## THEATRE 1

In Stratford the rarely seen *Cymbeline* is given a smart overhaul by the RSC...



## THEATRE 2

...while in London, *Faust* is radically but impenetrably revised for our frazzled times

## THE TIMES ARTS



## RADIO

The novels of Armistead Maupin are the starting point for a new travel series about America



## TOMORROW

Does Tennessee Williams's *Camino Real* justify revival? Read Benedict Nightingale's view

THEATRE: Excellent RSC acting in a fine production at Stratford; plus some philosophical confusion, and an Irish one-hander

## Doom, gloom and humanity

ACTORS Touring Company is into doomsday scenarios. For its last production Nick Philippou rediscovered an Odeon von Horvath play from 1926 that comically savaged a Europe in disarray after the First World War. Now Mark Ravenhill provides a text where a character argues that humanity itself is at an end. I wish I had been able to follow the argument.

**Faust**  
Lyric Studio,  
HammerSmith

This is not the *Faust* of Marlowe or Goethe or Thomas Mann. It is closer to Klaus Mann's *Mephisto*, where the tempter and the tempted exist in one person, but in the Ravenhill version these roles switch between his two characters. One is a Foucault-like philosopher embarking on a sexual spree in California, the other a callow youth at war with his father. We do not learn the names of the protagonists but are told that the father is a computer billionaire named Bill — not a name one would lightly choose.

Since Ravenhill is the author of *Shopping and Fucking*, the likelihood was high that alarming events would occur. Publicity photos suggested that blood would flow, and so it does, though the injury to the professor's eyes causes no lasting inconvenience.

So what happens? On Pippa Nissen's spare and mobile set, philosopher and youth do a deal. The philosopher wants "to live a little", the youth to escape from Dad.

The lean and hungry look of the French-Canadian actor Alain Pelletier gives a good impression of cerebral rigour, and a certain intellectual fa-

tigue comes across in his gesture of tilting his head sideways and supporting its weight on a hand. Zoomorphic shapes are projected onto video screens, and a man's naked body too, bleeding from self-inflicted slashes.

These wounds come in because the youth — a high-twitch performance by Pete Baillie — has trouble with reality unless it comes by way of video or the Internet. Some guy they meet slices his jugular as a way to approach real reality. Hereabouts the philosopher becomes Mephisto and the youth goes back to his father.

None of these events satisfactorily allows an exploration of what I take to be the play's prime question: humanity, whither? The stated answer is that we must be cruel, but this snatches of trimming the argument to fit a desired sexual solution. On three occasions when the play could oblige us to face something horrible, Philippou never quite shows it. I was grateful for that.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Tempter tempted: Alain Pelletier and Pete Baillie

There is an unease about the Royal Shakespeare Company in the air, and not just because the troupe will soon clamber into buses and take a worryingly long summer break from the Barbican. Some say its modern work is disappointing — yet Peter Whelan's fascinating contribution to the Shakespeare archives, *The Herbal Bed*, is about to move to the West End. I myself have felt that its

**Cymbeline**  
RST, Stratford

classic productions are not what they were — yet here is Adrian Noble's superb revival of *Cymbeline*, with Joanne Pearce, Paul Freeman and Guy Henry firmly answering the suspicion that RSC acting is getting weaker.

Noble has made heavyish cuts to the text, but they left me unbothered. Indeed, I was relieved to find the laborious opening conversation between First Gent and Second Gent reduced to a deft exchange narrated by an orange-clad soothsayer to a white-clothed cast clustered over a flame. That instantly establishes the right feel. *Cymbeline* is a wonderfully tall tale, absorbing in itself but packed with ingredients from Shakespeare's other late romances: a pure young heroine, evil in high places, desperate separations, glorious reconciliations, a visit from Mount Olympus, forgiveness, joy.

An oriental simplicity rules. Anthony Ward's set is a blue box with silky white flooring that rises to hang like a sail above the stage. Two Little Maids From School tester about in black slippers. The more elevated members of the royal household are Confucian figures in skullcaps and long black jackets. Even the



Evidence of seduction: Paul Freeman's Iachimo (left) shows off the bracelet to Damian Lewis's Posthumus, watched by David Glover (Philario)

Romans' red robes owe less to Caesar than to the Mikado. The battle between them and the British comes with staves, huge banners and Edward Petherbridge's *Cymbeline* aloft on a brass-and-cloth throne. People trip in and out via a walkway running through the stalls.

Why so radical a journey from Britain circa AD 10? Is Noble excusing what's exotic in the story of *Cymbeline*'s daughter Imogen, whose adventures include being be-

trayed by her wicked step-mother, menaced by her husband after the Roman Iachimo pretends he has slept with her, disguising himself as a boy and meeting her long-lost brothers in the Welsh wilds, and, after being wrongly deemed dead, waking up to find herself beside a corpse she thinks is her husband but is actually her stepbrother. Closest I can report is delight in an evening that combines clarity with a sense of wonder.

Petherbridge solves one of the play's problems by bringing an interestingly paired, flummoxed quality to the undeveloped, unattractive title-character. There is certainly no doubting who wears the pantaloons in his court, given the power that Joanna McCullum's towering Queen majestically exudes.

Pearce's Imogen should probably react more strongly to such setbacks as finding that a) her husband wants to kill her, and b) she is anug-

gling up to what looks like his headless trunk; but she has the essential qualities in abundance. I have never seen her bring more freshness, sweetness and warmth to a part.

The male villains are equally effective. Freeman cannot motivate Iachimo's final repentance — who could? — but everything about him in the early scenes, from his smile to the silvery glint in his eye, radiates arrogance and sly, stealthy destructiveness. And Henry does much to

humanise a character usually played as a boorish oaf. His Cloten fastidiously lengthens his name's tell-tale first syllable, and, instead of roaring and blustering, gives the impression of a natural Aguescheek trying to convince himself he is a mix of Romeo and Hamlet or a long, thin prawn indulging in shark-fantasies. Funny stuff, fine production.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## Plot makes a shallow grave

THE hottest action is all over before the start of Colin O'Connor's monologue, *All Those Trammelling Dreams*. Only after the sounds of a scuffle have died down does the play's sole character appear, blood dribbling from his nose and mouth.

Crash landing somewhere

between Edgar Allan Poe and Christopher Isherwood, O'Connor's play doubles as the breathless, febrile testimony of a champagne Charlie. An unpleasant figure, all too easy to distrust, he has been cornered by a mob after a sordid encounter and now addresses an audience he ima-

**All Those Trammelling Dreams**  
The Crypt, Dublin

gines to be filled with impatient bystanders, witnesses and vigilantes baying for some explanation of the night's events.

The effete, dinner-suited sucker, played by Michael McElhatton in a daze of fragility and bluster, begins to offer an account of himself, of his habit of frequenting nightclubs alone, of drinking too much wine and of tipping too extravagantly, and of his uncomfortable connections with a mysterious (and significantly absent) couple. Gradually, a fuzzy picture begins to emerge of a dysfunctional relationship, the very shadowiness of which is its only explanation.

McElhatton always has a mammoth task in bringing an often jerky script together.

LUKE CLANCY

## Half bored

Travel programmes on radio can never hope to compete with their television equivalents any more than travel brochures would have much of a readership if they lacked pictures. The main example on BBC Radio is *Breakaway* (Radio 4), which is said to be one of the targets in the rifle sights of James Boyle, Radio 4's Controller.

I cannot understand why *Breakaway* persists in trying to visit places. It would be far better to let Jill Dando do the wandering in the sun routine on TV and turn *Breakaway* into a show for travel connoisseurs, leading us through the maze of special offers that aren't.

*Breakaway* does some of that, but not enough. But there is another thing that makes the present *Breakaway* unsatisfactory, and that is radio's excellence at doing travel shows that are not ostensibly travel shows at all.

A fine example began on Radio 4 this week. Novel America (Tuesday at 10am, FM only) is a four-part

## RADIO

which visits different parts of America through the medium of novels set in those areas. The idea is not new, but I doubt that it has ever been better executed than in this series.

The presenter is Martin Wainwright, and in the first programme he saw San Francisco through his own eyes and those of the writer Armistead Maupin, creator of the *Tales of the City* stories, which are set in San Francisco.

There were no recommended hotels or ideal vantage points from which to admire the Golden Gate Bridge. Instead there were real people living in real streets doing real jobs offering real experiences of real life. Mainstream travel programmes leave the feeling that the show has been to a place to save us the trouble; this one must have had people reaching for the nearest travel agent.

PETER BARNARD

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THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28 1997



## ■ POP 1

U2 try so hard to be trendy on their new album, but *Pop* lacks authentic snap and crackle



## ■ POP 2

... and James's attempt to keep up with the pace is more mishmash than *Whiplash*



## ■ POP 3

... but Suzanne Vega gives her eclectic artistry a twist to good effect on *Nine Objects of Desire*



## ■ POP 4

... and, in concert, Steve Earle captivated his fans with a vintage display of bleak lyricism

POP ALBUMS: The band that dictated trends for so long now follows them, says David Sinclair

## U2 in peril of losing the edge

U2 *Pop* (Island 524 3340 £13.99)  
THESE are trying times for supergroups. If R.E.M. can fail to hit their sales targets with an album as good as *New Adventures In Hi-Fi*, then anyone is vulnerable to the restless mood of record buyers. In the past, U2 have been uncannily adept at judging how and when to ring the changes, and *Pop* confirms them as the consummate rock strategists. But although it is a resourceful, intelligent and at times rewarding record, *Pop* is not a great U2 album.

It starts with the wonderful *Discotheque*, a flurry of neat, jokey words, ingeniously double-tracked in different octaves. It suggests a bold, hip, dance-rock direction, an impression confirmed by the bustling techno rhythm and industrial sound effects of *Mofo*, in which Bono delivers a lyric of mortal intensity in a croaky moan that gradually rises to a tortured falsetto.

However, the promise of these two tracks fails to materialise as the album then drifts into more traditional territory with the melancholy evangelism of *If God Will Send His Angels* and *Staring at the Sun*. With the exception of the lovely, rocky *The Playboy Mansion*, tunes are generally in short supply, a deficiency which the various production tricks do not altogether remedy.

The cumulative effect of so much religious imagery eventually becomes tiresome, and a bunching up of slow and/or unstructured numbers causes the album to tail off towards the end. It is not that U2 have

U2 — (from left) Bono, Adam Clayton, the Edge and Larry Mullen — have not lost the plot on their album, *Pop*, so much as surrendered the initiative

lost the plot, so much as surrendered the initiative. Whereas *Zooropa* and *Achtung Baby* were delightful new chapters in the story of pop, *Pop* sounds as if the band have been listening to the Prodigy and Tricky without quite working out where to go

with these dynamic new sounds. JAMES *Whiplash* (Fontana 534 354 £13.99)  
HAVING retreated from the wilfully experimental approach of their previous al-

bum, *Wah Wah*, James display signs of Stripped Minds syndrome on the more conventional half of *Whiplash*. There is nothing wrong, *per se*, with songs such as *Lost a Friend*, *Homeboy* or *She's a Star*, with their sturdy guitar-driven structures and gliding, arena-pop choruses. But they do betray a certain hardening of the creative arteries.

As if to counter such accusations, the group adopts a self-consciously radical approach on several other songs. But, apart from the country-tinged shuffle of *Waiting Along*, these are not very good. *Greenpeace* is a PC polemic about man's malevolent impact on the environment; *Go to the Bank* offers a strange, electro-pop vision of consumerist hell; and *Waiting Hole* wanders unsteadily down the hypnotic, trip-hop avenue. The end result is more mishmash than *Whiplash*.

SUZANNE VEGA *Nine Objects of Desire* (A&M 540 583 £13.49)  
SUZANNE VEGA is one of those people who looks different in every photograph, and there is a similarly elusive quality to her music. Her folk roots remain, most obviously in her wordplay, but songs such as *Caramel* and *Thin*

Man now have delicious jazz and Latin influences. Add the dreamy quality of Mitchell Froom's production to the mix and you have an album of sensitive, mercurial grace.

There is often a bleak cast to Vega's lyrics, as on *Casual Match*: "A casual match in a very dry field/Fire and ash is the season's yield". But the choruses of *Headshots* and *No Cheap Thrill* have the kind of instant uplift that would make even a pure pop songwriter happy.

REPUBLICA *Republica* (Deconstruction/BMG 74321 410522 £11.99)  
AS A band composed of refugees from N-Joi (singer Saffron), Flowered Up (key-board player Tim Dorney) and Bow Wow Wow (drummer Dave Barbarossa), Republica would have been labelled a supergroup in an earlier era. Instead, they have gone for the Bush-patented "big in America but still to make it at home" tag, thanks to the modest overseas success of their single *Ready to Go* and this debut album.

Operating on the cusp of dance and what the Americans call modern rock, their sound could not be more of the moment, even if Saffron's pouty, shouty vocals sound more Shampoo than Carbage. Still, there are many banging tracks that will not have too much trouble competing for attention in the clamorous world of young people's pop.

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## Now we know the troubles he's seen

## LIVE GIG

Steve Earle  
Mean Fiddler, NW10

They call him the hardcore troubadour, and no one could ever accuse him of not living the life he creates in song. Faithless women and feckless drifters, reckless spirits and drink and drugs that don't ease the pain — welcome to the world of Steve Earle.

He comes from Texas but moved to Nashville, he's been to prison, he's had lengthy bouts of heroin and crack addiction and has been divorced five times — remarkably similar, in fact, to one of the restless characters who populate his songs.

Today he has cleaned up, and he looks robustly healthy as he captivated the first of three sell-out audiences at the Mean Fiddler with a three-hour acoustic set. This is the best setting in which to see him. With his band Earle's songs tend to coagulate into a long, rocking display of rebel country and Southern hell-raising. On his own he displays a more complicated side.

He is a fine guitarist, adept at the finger-picking styles of the American folk and blues traditions, and he plays harmonica in the gloriously unstructured fashion of the young Bob Dylan. New songs such as *Come Back Woody Guthrie* display a sensitivity for radical American history.

namechecking Joe Hill and Emma Goldman. There are also references to Martin Luther King and Jack Kerouac, and he talks animatedly about his longstanding involvement in Native American rights programmes.

There is also a chilling rendition of *Ellis Unit One*, which he wrote for the soundtrack of the Oscar-winning *Dead Man Walking* (Earle is a committed campaigner against capital punishment). His is a bleak world of people trapped in an American Dream gone to seed. Yet there is humour in his cracked voice, too, on songs such as *Hometown Blues* and *The Devil's Right Hand*. His most famous rebel rocker, *Copperhead Road*, is transformed as a simple mandolin stomp, and he ends with *I Ain't Ever Satisfied*, a song that perhaps sums up not only his life in general but also a career that has delivered much, but somehow always promised more.

NIGEL  
WILLIAMSON

Caitlin Moran is away. Her column returns next week

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**TOP TEN ALBUMS**

- (5) Attack of the Grey Lantern... Mansun (Parlophone)
- (2) Spice... Spice Girls (Virgin)
- (4) The Smurfs Hits '97 - Vol 1... Smurfs (EMI TV)
- (1) Tropic... No Doubt (Interscope)
- (9) Ocean Drive... Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
- (1) Blur... Blur (Food)
- (3) White on Blonde... Texas (Mercury)
- (5) Evita... Original Soundtrack (Warner Bros)
- (8) Blue is the Colour... Beautiful South (Go! Discs)
- (23) Everything Must Go... Manic Street Preachers (Epic)

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## Material wealth

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The Satin Album  
(Jazzit JTC 9607)

THE appropriateness of Scottish tenor saxophonist Bobby Wellins's slightly world-weary, vulnerable but cultured sound to ballad material is so perfect that the only surprise about this recording devoted entirely to the songs on Billie Holiday's last great album, *Lady in Satin*, is that it hadn't been thought of until now.

Wellins effortlessly imbues all he plays with such plaintive tenderness that the emotional impact of the album is almost as great as that of its template. His rhythm section — pianist Colin Furbrook, bassist Dave Green and drummer Clark Tracey — play with exemplary restraint, but nevertheless manage to contribute a number of telling solos. Overall, a masterful display of controlled sensitivity from one of the most original saxophone voices in European jazz.

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CHRIS PARKER

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Tel: 01923 773168  
http://www.rmsx.demon.co.uk

The Rickmansworth Masonic School exists for the advancement of education. Registered Charity No. 276794

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- Excellent results
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- Assisted places for the individual
- Flourishing Sixth Form

Entry at 4½, 7½, 11½, 12½, 16+

Sixth Form Entry Examination: 6th March, 1997.

Scholarships and DfEE Assisted Places available.

Contact: The Registrar Tel: 0181 826423 Fax: 0181 826424

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For entrances and scholarship details telephone 01590 211954  
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1, Salisbury Villas, Station Road, Cambridge CB1 2JF  
Tel: (01223) 316880 Fax: 358441

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For further details please contact The Headmistress, St Swithun's School, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 1HA  
Tel: (01962) 861516

St Swithun's School, Winchester (Registered Charity No. 302028) exists to provide education for girls aged 11 - 18 years.

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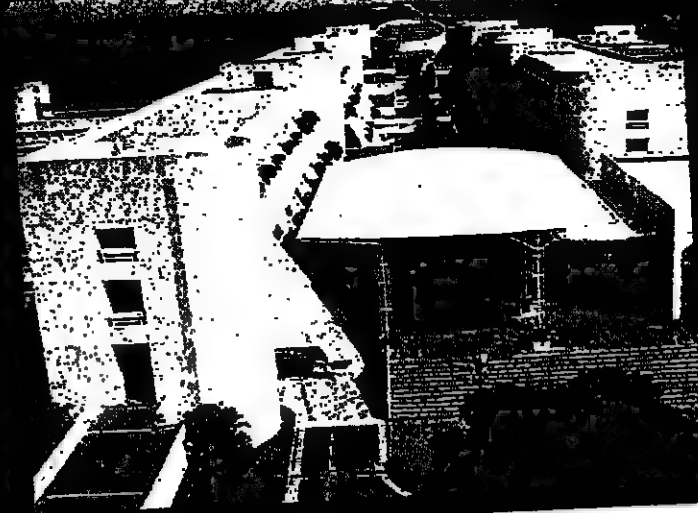
SINGAPORE, A MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY WITH A PER CAPITA INCOME OF ABOUT US\$24,600 - RANKED SECOND IN ASIA AND ABOVE SOME COUNTRIES IN WESTERN EUROPE - IS A RAPIDLY GROWING INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS HUB IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (NTU) is one of the two universities in Singapore. The campus is on a 200 hectare site, 2.5 km from the City centre, with modern building of futuristic yet functional design, set in lush green surroundings.

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*Scholarships are available for all of the major academic units. They are listed below together with their main research thrusts.*

The School of Civil and Structural Engineering has an academic staff of about 70 supported by a technical staff of 78. There are currently 75 research students.

- Foundations of High-Rise Buildings
- Underground Space Development
- Tropical Soils Engineering
- Water Resources and Environmental Engineering
- Sediment Transport and Coastal Processes
- Geographic Information Systems
- Computational Mechanics
- Structural Steel/Concrete And Connections
- Construction Management And Information Technology In Construction
- Structural Dynamics and Wind Engineering
- Transport Planning, Management and Control
- Pavement Materials and Technology

The School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering has an academic staff of about 200 supported by 150 technical staff. There are currently 230 research students.

- Power System Control and Operations
- IC Design and CAD Tools
- Information Systems Engineering
- Multimedia Systems and Networks
- Control Theory and Applications
- Computer Vision and Machine Intelligence
- Modulation, Coding and Signal Processing
- Satellite Communications
- Diamond and Thin Films
- III-V Semiconductor Materials and Devices
- Photonics

The School of Mechanical and Production Engineering has a staff of 134 supported by 104 technical staff working with 177 research students.

- Advanced Materials and Processing
- Biomedical Engineering
- Electronics Packaging
- Indoor Air Quality and Pollution Control
- Intelligent Machines and Micromachines
- Intelligent Manufacturing Systems
- Materials Modelling
- Precision Machining and Rapid Prototyping
- Product Design and Intelligent Modelling
- Robotics and Vision Systems
- Smart Materials and Structures

The School of Accountancy and Business has an academic staff of about 250.

- Actuarial Science and Insurance
- Applied Economics
- Auditing and Taxation
- Banking and Finance
- Business Law
- Financial and Management Accounting
- Human Resource and Quality Management
- Marketing and Tourism Management
- Strategy and Information Systems

The School of Applied Science has an academic staff of 77, with technical support staff of 49. It comprises two Departments with a total of 78 research students.

### Computer Engineering

- Computer Architecture
- Computer Communications
- Intelligent Systems
- Real-Time Systems
- Object Oriented and Multimedia Database Systems
- Image Processing
- Computer Graphics and Visualization
- Parallel Processing

### Materials Engineering

- Polymers and Composites
- Ceramics
- Thin and Thick Films
- Electronic Materials and Processing
- Fracture Mechanics
- Rheology
- Corrosion
- Surface Engineering
- Non-Destructive Testing

The School of Communication Studies has a staff of 29. It is embarking on research in the following areas:

- Media Effects
- Public Opinion and Persuasion
- International and Intercultural Communication
- Organizational Communication
- Impact of Information Technology & Society

The research activities take place in modern, extremely well equipped laboratories. The university is equipped with modern information technology systems to support the research and to encourage academic and personal communications via an extensive network. The library which holds over 450,000 volumes provides extensive on-line database search facilities.

The University invites applications for Research Scholarships by graduates (and those graduating this academic year) who have obtained a good honours degree. The Scholarship is normally available for two years for a Master's degree candidate and three years for doctoral students.

Application forms can be obtained by email: [gleong@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:gleong@ntu.edu.sg) or by fax: 00 65 791 1604 or by writing to The Registrar, Nanyang Technological University, Admin Annex, Level 1, Nanyang Avenue, Singapore 639798. For more information about our University and the exciting research opportunities, visit our web site at <http://www.ntu.ac.sg/>



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1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the symptoms and the context in which they are occurring.

2. The second step is to gather information. This includes looking at the data, talking to the people involved, and understanding the system.

3. The third step is to analyze the information. This involves looking for patterns, identifying the root cause, and understanding the impact of the problem.

4. The fourth step is to develop a solution. This involves brainstorming ideas, evaluating them, and choosing the best one.

5. The fifth step is to implement the solution. This involves putting the plan into action and making sure it works.

6. The sixth step is to evaluate the results. This involves looking at the data and seeing if the problem has been solved.

7. The seventh step is to document the process. This involves writing down what was done and why, so that it can be repeated if necessary.

8. The eighth step is to communicate the results. This involves telling the people involved what was done and why.

9. The ninth step is to review the process. This involves looking at what was done and seeing if it can be improved.

10. The tenth step is to close the problem. This involves making sure that the problem has been solved and that the system is back to normal.

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 30 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 85 years of age or older is projected to increase from 2 million to 4 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 90 years of age or older is projected to increase from 500,000 to 1 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 95 years of age or older is projected to increase from 100,000 to 200,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 100 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10,000 to 20,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

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## RUGBY UNION

# England can bide their time and win

Rob Andrew counsels against an adventurous start that could hand the game to France

Several commentators are urging England to start attacking France from the first minute at Twickenham tomorrow. They suggest style, whereas I would promote caution. The notion that if England can succeed in an all-out offensive at the end of matches, then they should be able to do so from the start, is naive. Frankly, these people misunderstand the game.

Rugby is about attrition as much as it is about flowing movement. It is obvious that an opposition defence is fitter and better organised at the start than it is later in a game. It is then that defenders drop off half a yard and gaps open. England would be handing France victory on a plate were they to begin crazily, fall two or three penalty goals behind, and find themselves playing catch-up.

Perhaps England's only undoing would be if they did force the game. This is now a confident, relaxed England, who know what they are doing. A controlled, patient build-up is again what is required. Those who would have them playing off-the-cuff from the start also seem to forget that the opposition this time is considerably stronger than England have faced so far in the five nations' championship.

I liked the look of England's schedule from the start, and they have fulfilled most expectations. It has been the ideal preparation for the France game: a comfortable home victory against a weak Scotland side and then an even better win in Ireland. Of course, it could be the precursor to a fall, but I doubt it. Even at the best of times, the French do not relish the trip to Twickenham.

In the majority of international matches, but especially against France, the physical battle up front dictates results. There is nothing to frighten the England front row. Mark Regan and Graham Rowntree were at their best in Dublin. Martin Johnson and Simon Shaw, in the second row, should be confident of winning a lot of ball. In the back row, Lawrence Dallaglio is in his rightful place at blindside flanker. Richard Hill looks

increasingly impressive, and Tim Rodber is riding high after a storming performance against Ireland.

France can — and I am sure will — release Abdelatif Benazzi, a one-man pack, off the scrums, but I expect England to close him down. The problem with having such a well-known danger man is that the opposition does its homework on him. We did the same in the days of Serge Blanco and Pierre Berbizier. We knew their threat, and sought deliberately to blunt it, often successfully.

Without Ntamack, Saint-André, Castaignède, or Roumat, France, vitally, are missing players of character and international experience. Good individuals have taken their places. Like New Zealand, France churn out players of flair and quality, but it is an unsettled side and one that appears to be not quite sure where it is going.

At Toulouse, Pierre Villepreux was responsible for one of the great club sides. He is assistant coach to Jean-Claude Skrela and the two are looking to produce an ambitious style of play. In the defeat of Wales, though, France made mistakes that would play into England's hands should they be repeated tomorrow.

It is ten years since France won at Twickenham. This fact should be rammed home, because France are acutely aware of it and are intimidated by it. The area where England have excelled in recent years against them is defence, perhaps because everyone knows what France are capable of producing.

There are two reasons to fear the French. One is their sheer physicality up front. The fight has to be taken to them. The other is their unpredictability. Lay off them even for a couple of seconds and they are quite capable of producing something glorious.

To use a cricket analogy, England are compiling a solid century. Only if the gaps are there should they go for them, but confidence is high and, although not on the scale of the first two victories, I would be surprised if England did not emerge winners again.



Tait breaks clear, wearing the colours of Newcastle, the club that brought him back to rugby union

## Tait offers true professionalism

Mark Souster meets the Scotland centre with the ability to revive their season

ONE of the things Alan Tait did with his first cheque from Widnes rugby league club nine years ago was to buy a plot of land in Kelso, on which he had a house built. Despite moving to the North of England, he always intended to return to his roots. For him, as a passionate Scot — the Cornishman accent notwithstanding — the Borders were home.

The advent of professionalism in rugby union enabled him to fulfil his wish sooner than expected. When Rob Andrew invited him to join Newcastle, it suited his needs perfectly. His selection for the national side to play Ireland at Murrayfield tomorrow was a natural progression.

It was difficult for his father, also named Alan, who went south from Kelso 30 years earlier to join the paid ranks — with Workington. While Tait Sr encountered hostility on his return, the welcome accorded the younger Tait was symptomatic of

the new spirit of openness within rugby. Kelso greeted him like a long-lost son, while many in the wider rugby community fumed that as the instant answer to Scotland's ills.

"I'll have to score ten tries and kick 15 goals to live up to it," Tait said yesterday. He understands why expectations are high but insists they are unrealistic. What he can offer is a mental hardness forged in rugby league and through years as a professional sportsman, something his Scottish colleagues are only beginning to experience. "I was surprised that players should immediately be expected to be fitter and stronger just because they were full time," he said.

"I guarantee it will take a good couple of years before the younger players appreciate what it all means. It is a job, not fun and games. "It is no use me coming up to Scotland and being a shy little boy. I am 32 and feel I can have an input. I'll be asking David Johnston [coach to the Scotland backs] if I can put a bit into the training." To Tait, rugby, of whichever code, is intrinsically a simple game. "The ball is the same shape, you tackle, you pass and still score tries. So it hasn't been hard. Anyway, it's too late for an old dog to learn new tricks."

The impact he made on the Scotland A side last month, when a strong Welsh team was beaten by 50 points, has left people hoping for a repeat performance tomorrow, when he wins his ninth cap, ten years on from his international debut. His influence and organisational skills were

readily evident in that A international, yet he admits to having been "frightened to death". He recalled: "I kept looking at the Welsh team thinking, 'I am up against Leigh Davies, the best centre in Britain last year, and I'm going to be shown up.'"

He was not and the call for his reinstatement was heeded. Now, Murrayfield awaits. "The wife says she'll give me a clout if tears start coming down my face when I'm singing *Flower of Scotland*. Back in 1988 we sang the National Anthem, which didn't have the same feeling to it."

After two depressing defeats in the five nations' championship, Tait knows a victory against Ireland is paramount. "We were unlucky against Wales. England were just too strong. If we don't watch out, they will pull away from the rest of us. We have to beat Ireland. A win is a must. How we do it doesn't matter."

## Family thrown together in common cause

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE limp handshake, the soft voice, do not fit the giant. The 6ft 5in, 20 stone, five points of milk-and-honey youth, with size 16½ feet, quite possibly, is Britain's next great thrower.

At 17, Carl Myerscough is immensely big and immensely talented, an athlete who can say without sounding ridiculous that his ambition is to be an Olympic champion and world record-holder, and one whose delicate touch with a paint brush is as much appreciated at Millfield School as his power with a shot and discus.

"Very artistic," his art master says, and if gold is not yet Myerscough's favourite colour, it may become so. "Training is the most important thing in my life," he said. He eats enormously, sleeps ten hours a night to be fresh for his workouts, and has set his sights on European and world junior gold medals before leaving the age group.

This weekend, by way of a stepping stone, Myerscough competes for the Great Britain Under-20 team in three-nations International in Chemnitz, Germany. At the same time, David Myerscough has been fighting the difficult fight that most sporting fathers face sooner or later: trying to remain a match for junior.

Until recently, Myerscough Sr, though no longer his son's better or equal as a thrower, was still level in bench press. "He has just beaten me by 2½ kilos," David Myerscough said. "He did 162½ and I did 160." It is not, though, time to give up. While Carl is in Germany, dad will be out to prove that he is among the best fifty-somethings in Europe.

Over the next three days, some 1,300 competitors, from 33 countries, aged between 35 and 95, will contest the European indoor veterans championships in Birmingham. Myerscough Jr has been as much a source of encourage-

ment to his father as his father has to him and Myerscough Sr is optimistic of a medal in the over-50s shot.

A former Lancashire discus champion, Myerscough Sr returned to the sport four years ago, after a 20-year lay-off, to provide competition and inspiration for his son.

"If I can still do it, it will encourage him," Myerscough Sr, 53, said. Years ago, with a lightweight shot bought for Carl, they would practise together in a local park.

"We used to make it competitive to draw the best out of each other and it soon became as I was," he said. "Now he has taken over as the motivator."

"When they start eclipsing you, you do not like to feel you are going downhill. You know it happens, but you try to hold on to your youth as long as you can. I am involved in the sport that Carl is in and it adds to the motivation and purpose for doing it."

At 6ft 5in, and 16 stone, Myerscough Sr is less physically imposing than his son. "Strength-wise, there is not a lot of difference but he is more athletic and has better coordination, timing and range," Myerscough Sr said. "I think I have passed on to him that wish and willpower, and ability to train hard."

Such is Myerscough Jr's potential that John Godina, the shot put world champion from the United States, has agreed to work with him when the young Briton goes to the University of California, Los Angeles, for three weeks at Easter.

Myerscough Sr will be without his training partner but, no matter, he has another one at home. Carl's younger brother, Grant.

"I will try and train Grant while he is away and not waste time," Myerscough Sr said. These fifty-somethings are irreplaceable.



Carl Myerscough towers over his father, David

## The key issues for school governors

For four weeks *The Times Educational Supplement* will be running free guides for school governors. They offer all the facts, advice and inspiration you need to get the most out of being a governor in 1997. In addition, Joan Sallis (a governor herself) writes regularly from the front line. So visit your newsagent and don't miss your copy of *The TES* from Friday 28 February.

TES Internet Service at <http://www.tes.co.uk>

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

### BASKETBALL

**GUILDFOOT** European championship: England 79 Russia 61  
**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA)** Sacramento 111 Boston 105, Detroit 117 Golden State 117 Orlando 88 Miami 88 Indiana 82 Seattle 76 Atlanta 78 Milwaukee 72, Minnesota 108 San Antonio 82 Phoenix 111 New York 104 LA Clippers 82 Vancouver 80, New York 104 Portland 95 (OT)

### CYCLING

**CAUPE** Spain: Tour of Valencia: Second stage (180km): 1. M. Fondriest (It) 4hr 22min, 2. V. Etxebarria (Spa), 3. J. Spruyell (Bel) 4. M. Zorzi (Ger), 5. J. Koryshov (Rus) all same time. Overall positions: 1. Spruyell 29, 2. Zorzi 25, 3. Koryshov 31, 4. Zorzi 31, 5. Zorzi 31.

### FOOTBALL

**Widnesbury's late results**  
FA Cup: First round: Derby County 3 Coventry City 2, Rotherham United 1, Lincoln City 0 (replay)  
FA CUP: Second round: Southampton 1, Watford 0  
**COCA-COLA CUP** Semi-final: First leg: Southampton 0, Manchester City 2  
**TELEVISION** Soccer: First division: Sunderland 0, Birmingham City 0  
**FOURTH ROUND** League: Celtic 2, Aberdeen 0, Manchester United 0, Arsenal 0  
**BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE** Second division: Livingston 2, Dundee City 2, Third division: East Stirling 0, Arbroath 0  
**DN MATHURUS LEAGUE** Premier division: Newport AFC 1, Gwent & Newport 0, Midland division: VS Rugby 2, Telford 2, Southern division: Exeter 0, Exeter 0

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### ICE HOCKEY

**NATIONAL LEAGUE (NL)** Chicago 3 Hartford 2 (OT), New Jersey 5 NY Islanders 3, Philadelphia 8 Ottawa 6, Washington 3 Toronto 1, Phoenix 3 Calgary 5, Edmonton 3 Anaheim 3 (OT)

### LACROSSE

**MILTON KEYNES** National Schoolboys' Tournament: Boys' Cup (semi-final): Fleet Queen Anne's 3, Maiden's 2, Westwood-Jones 3, Maiden's 2, Fleet Queen Anne's 3, Maiden's 2

### ROWING

**CAMBRIDGE** University Boat Race: Men's First division: Trinity Hall 1st, Christ's 2nd, Trinity Hall 3rd, Christ's 4th, Trinity Hall 5th, Christ's 6th, Trinity Hall 7th, Christ's 8th, Trinity Hall 9th, Christ's 10th, Trinity Hall 11th, Christ's 12th, Trinity Hall 13th, Christ's 14th, Trinity Hall 15th, Christ's 16th, Trinity Hall 17th, Christ's 18th, Trinity Hall 19th, Christ's 20th, Trinity Hall 21st, Christ's 22nd, Trinity Hall 23rd, Christ's 24th, Trinity Hall 25th, Christ's 26th, Trinity Hall 27th, Christ's 28th, Trinity Hall 29th, Christ's 30th, Trinity Hall 31st, Christ's 32nd, Trinity Hall 33rd, Christ's 34th, Trinity Hall 35th, Christ's 36th, Trinity Hall 37th, Christ's 38th, Trinity Hall 39th, Christ's 40th, Trinity Hall 41st, Christ's 42nd, Trinity Hall 43rd, Christ's 44th, Trinity Hall 45th, Christ's 46th, Trinity Hall 47th, Christ's 48th, Trinity Hall 49th, Christ's 50th, Trinity Hall 51st, Christ's 52nd, Trinity Hall 53rd, Christ's 54th, Trinity Hall 55th, Christ's 56th, 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# Auntie takes a trip — for medicinal reasons

Hey man, it's *Horizon* (BBC2). This being television and our subject being psychedelic drugs, the only real question was how long it would be before Timothy Leary popped up and advised us to "turn on, tune in and drop out". I made it 11 minutes and... but like, who's counting? That specially impregnated page of *Radio Times* was beginning to take effect.

The makers of last night's documentary had clearly stumbled through the doors of perception some time ago. "Let's make a film about psychedelic drugs," said one with an excited groan. "Great idea, man," groaned another. "We could make the whole thing look like one giant psychedelic experience. They did — and after 30 minutes of blurred photography, slow motion and strange, stretchy special effects, I was groaning too. It was like arriving late at a party in full

swing... and remembering that you're driving.

But despite the distraction of the visual presentation, there was no obscuring the interest of the main subject. After a 30-year moratorium, psychedelic drugs such as LSD are once again being used in serious scientific research. And yes, as Bill Eagles' film showed, that sentence can be interpreted two ways. While some scientists are painstakingly studying the effects that "psychedelics" (in these circles it's cool to drop the word drugs after a while) have on the brain, others are simply taking them and using their allegedly raised levels of consciousness to become computer billionaires or win Nobel prizes.

"Yeah, I was right down there with the molecules when I discovered it," said Kary Mullis, a biochemist for whom the phrase "so laid-back he was horizontal" might have been invented. He

owed it all to LSD and I didn't doubt it for a minute.

Eagles, however, had not forgotten the moral high ground altogether. A more conventional-looking scientist duly popped up to remind us of the price that Leary — and indeed the scientific community — had paid for turning research into a party. Venture too far down that path, we were warned, and you reach madness, murder and Charles Manson. But not if you do it properly, responded those at the blurred edge of modern psychedelics research.

Much of this new research has concentrated on psychedelics derived from plants and consumed for centuries by native people of South America and Africa. These, we learnt, include ayahuasca, a hallucinogenic tea which is currently under great things for an understanding of its effects and undoubtedly charismatic Christian cult in Brazil; and ibogaine, which

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

sounds like something you rub into aching joints but is actually a lot more fun.

But for me the real revelation (apart from how tedious 1960s guitar music becomes when you're not in the mood) was that psychedelics are being used for — and indeed were used for before they were outlawed in the late 1960s. In Miami, ibogaine is being used to treat cocaine addiction,

echoing work done in the late 1950s when LSD was used on heroin addicts and alcoholics. Fighting fire with fire, cocaine to Newcastles, busman's holiday — aphorism as you will, but the next time someone stumbles up to you in the high street asking for "20p for a tab of LSD", remember — he could be on the right track.

Back in what is nothing like the real world, BBC1 had yet another new sitcom to present us with. A Perfect State was its comic origins proudly. Having been underwritten at the time of the Domesday Book, Flatby, a very low-lying fishing village on the East Coast, was never officially annexed to the United Kingdom and is therefore perfectly entitled to declare itself independent. And we are perfectly entitled to say "ooh, just like *Pasopis* to Pimlico".

But just like so many other things, too, Richard Hope plays the umpteenth Man from the

Ministry to be sent to quell rebellious natives (various *St Trinian's* films, *Love on a Branch Line*, *Gobbie* — although I am reluctant to cite the latter as the comic origin of anything) and will no doubt become the umpteenth Man from the Ministry to turn the umpteenth anti-EU stance. Carries of little, chubby Hercule Poirot coming over here to tell us how to wipe the very bottoms we sit on, the series merely takes on where *The Brittas Empire* left off.

Regardless of its derivative nature, however, there is good news. A *Perfect State* is funny and, in particular, Michael Addams appears to have created the near-perfect part for the considerable talents of Gwen Taylor. She plays Laura, a bossy, Deputy Mayor and driving force in Flatby. She is driving, interfering and the sort of intimid-

ating film that makes even Rudolph the Biscuit Mayor quail.

Naturally, I never forget there is a real world out there, she told her daughter Julie, solicitor and the village's constitutional expert, "where people are normal and civilised and don't all sleep with their first cousins." As sitcom starts get this definitely the right side of promising.

Finally, let us consider *Shop Till You Drop* (Channel 4), a series that promises to reveal all about supermarket culture in the 1990s. Nothing wrong with that, except that in the past 15 months BBC2 has covered exactly the same territory not just once, twice, Susan Tully can narrate away about blink rates, role distribution and why fruit and veg is a predominantly female selection zone, but as far as I'm concerned it's a case of been there, done it, got the shopping trolley. Twice.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (S3408)
  - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (T) (88867)
  - 8.00am Breakfast News Extra (T) (8835935)
  - 9.20am Sky Challenge (1065374)
  - 9.45am Killy (S30138)
  - 10.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S3857)
  - 11.00am News (T) and weather (S80841)
  - 11.05am The Really Useful Show (S37190)
  - WALLS: 11.05am Wales Labour Conference (S250082)
  - 11.35am Change That (S81119)
  - 12.00am News (T) (891887)
  - 12.05pm The Alphabet Game (S594935)
  - 12.30pm Going for a Song (S78770)
  - 12.55pm The Weather Show (S492915)
  - 1.00pm News (T) and weather (S1954)
  - 1.30pm Regional News (S206739)
  - 1.45pm Neighbours (T) (20488190)
  - 2.05pm The Gift of Love (1993) with Andy Griffith and Blair Brown. A man is given a heart transplant under conditions which destroy his family and is forced to find solace with a young runaway who gives him the will to live once more. Directed by Paul Bogart (S274454)
  - 3.30pm Playdays (1297480) 3.50pm The Friday Show (S851428) 4.55pm Newsround Extra (T) (S85409) 5.10pm Blue Peter (T) (1032192)
  - 5.35pm Neighbours (T) (S98030)
  - 6.00pm News (T) and weather (S15)
  - 6.30pm Newsround South East (S87)
  - 7.00pm Big Break Snooker stars Terry Griffiths, Shokat Ali and Lee Richardson cue up for the snooker game show (T) (1428)
  - 7.30pm Top of the Pops (751)
  - 8.00pm Podge: Classic comedy with Ronnie Barker (T) (784)
  - 8.30pm A Question of Sport: Cystic Fibrosis, the captain of the Welsh rugby union XV Jonathan Humphreys, high-jumper Steve Smith and Everton footballer Gary Speed take part in the sports quiz hosted by David Coleman, with team captain John Parrott and Ally McCoist (T) (988)
  - 9.00pm News (T) and weather (S835)
  - 9.30pm Silent Witness (1/2) When the body of a man is donated to medical research, Sam uncovers evidence to suggest his death may not have been entirely natural. With Amanda Burton (T) (478363)
  - 10.20pm The Mrs Merton Show With guests Sacha Dinal and Jeremy Clarkson (T) (77312) WALS: 10.20pm The World of Desmond Reilly 10.50pm The Mrs Merton Show (1/2) FILM: Midnight Run 1.15pm FILM: The Legacy 2.55pm News
  - 10.55pm Midnight Run (1985) Robert De Niro plays a bounty hunter who engages in a battle of wits with crooked accountant Charles Grodin while struggling to bring him to justice. Directed by Martin Brest (S220225)
  - 12.50pm The Legacy (1979) American Katharine Hepburn and Sam Elliott are forced to spend time in a sinister-looking English country house after crashing their car. Directed by Richard Marquand (S22492)
  - 2.30pm Weather (S49178)
- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode**
- The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ remote. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Video Development Ltd.

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Open University: Two Research Styles (S29330) 6.25pm Looking at What Happens in Hospital (S218428) 6.50pm Forecasting the Economy (S276374) 7.15pm Sea View Breakfast News (S254549)
  - 7.30pm Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels (1281374) 7.55pm The Really Wild Show (S85119) 8.20pm Just So Stories (S27732) 8.35pm The Record (S74751) 9.00pm Daytime on Two: The British Experience (S242228) 9.15pm The Biology Collection (S47481) 9.45pm Children's BBC: Playdays (S2119) 10.30pm Hotch Potch House (S494751) 10.50pm Cosmo and Dibs in Punjab and English (S219635) 11.00pm Look and Read (S255543) 11.20pm Short Circuit (S78587) 11.40pm English: Live (1263948) 12.00pm English: Live (15461) 12.30pm Working Lunch (S2003) 1.45pm Words and Pictures (S803848) 2.00pm Just So Stories (S767028)
  - 2.10pm Sport on Friday: Helen Rollison introduces action from the downhill slalom event in Nagano, Japan. Plus a preview of the weekend's live nations' championship matches (S23393)
  - 3.55pm News (T) regional news (S219954) 4.00pm Today's the Day (S49) 4.30pm Ready, Steady, Cook (S64) 5.00pm Esther (S206) 5.30pm Going, Going, Gone (S15)
  - 6.00pm Star Trek (T) (S55480)
  - 6.50pm Electric Circus: The latest entertainment news with Danni Minogue (10883)
  - 7.00pm Pole to Pole: The second leg of Michael Palin's epic journey takes him to Russia (T) (S78587)
  - 7.50pm A Week to Remember (S15206)
  - 8.00pm Birding with Bill Oddie: Bill Oddie takes his binoculars to the Scottish Highlands, hoping to catch sight of some of Britain's rarest birds — ospreys, capercaillies and the golden eagle (T) (S190)
  - 8.30pm Gardeners' World: Alan Titchmarsh strolls around the colourful terraces of the Mediterranean (T) (7225)
  - 9.00pm Red Dwarf: Lister, a virus which has the power to kill him (T) (S577)
  - 9.30pm The Two Fat Ladies: Comedy Cook in Clarkson, Dickson Wright and Jennifer Paterson host BBC2's Comedy Zone (T) (S2887)
  - 10.00pm Comedy Zone: The Two Fat Ladies present classic hilarity as they choose their all-time favourite British sitcom (T) (S1690)
  - 10.30pm Newsnight (T) (S41645)
  - 11.15pm Space: Above and Beyond (S19208)
  - 12.00pm Stuff the White Rabbit (S3807)
  - 12.30pm The Face (1958, b/w) Black Drama, with Max von Sydow and Ingrid Thulin. Directed by Ingmar Bergman. In Swedish with English subtitles. (S2158)
  - 2.10-2.15pm Weather (S24387)

- Red Dwarf**
- BBC2, 9.00pm
- After last week's fun with *Pride and Prejudice*, the sci-fi spoof offers a relatively orthodox episode. Though in this show nothing is conventional for long. The plot is sparked by the discovery of a three-million-year-old woman, preserved in a block of ice and still alive. Followers of the recent *Horizon* series on frozen corpses may smell a parody, though the writers Paul Alexander and David Lloyd would probably deny it. Suffice to know that the ice woman impregnates Craig Charles's Lister with an intelligent virus and desperate measures have to be taken to rid him of it. As usual the level of invention is high and the one-liners a delight. "This place is harder to get into than an airline check-in," complains Lister, as he tries to enter a wrecked ship.
- Catherine Cookson's The Moth**
- ITV, 9.00pm
- Lots of nasty people live in Cookson country, and awful things happen, but somehow there is always a warm glow of goodness to make the tale bearable. Which is perhaps why they are read, and loved, by such large audiences. The previous adaptation, *The Wings*, *Purple*, *bird*, in 12 million viewers and there is no good reason why *The Moth*, the almost archetypal Cookson story, should not do as well. Jack Davenport is the hero, Robert, a carpenter who leaves the farrow shipyard to work for his uncle. It is 1915, which is why Robert has a shipyard. Uncle turns out to be a Bible-bashing tyrant, who accuses Robert of getting his cousin pregnant. Forced into another move, Robert heads for a crumbling estate and a fateful encounter with two sisters. One is played by a promising newcomer, Justine Waddell, the other by the very talented Juliet Aubrey.
- Silent Witness: Cease Upon the Midnight**
- BBC1, 9.30pm
- When an Aids sufferer dies on the night of his 40th birthday, Amanda Burton's staid Dr Ryan smells a rat. And so should we, for a series with a forensic pathologist as its central character can hardly waste its time with deaths by natural causes. It has to be murder, or at the very least an assisted suicide. Get the body on the slab, let the camera linger on it and leave Dr Ryan to do her grisly best. This two-part story is by a *Casualty* writer, Jacqueline Holborough, and maintains the four standard of a series not noted for its shafts of humour. Dr Ryan's private life contains little more joy. For one thing there is the burden of a dour sister (Ruth McCabe), while the best she can do for a spot of romance is that old flame from many years ago, the utterly charming Detective Superintendent Ross (Mick Ford).
- The Mrs Merton Show**
- BBC1, 10.20pm (Scotland and Wales, 10.50pm; N.I., 11.05pm)
- There is the danger that when a chat show spoof loses its bite, it becomes just another chat show. Caroline Aherne's Mrs Merton may not be there yet, but she is getting close. Perhaps the next guests who are more easily insulted. Or perhaps the novelty of the host dressing up as a dowdy Lancashire housewife so that she can ask insulting questions is wearing off. Mrs Merton may be quick with the quips, which are often sharp and funny, but unless the guests rise to the show is entirely lacking in substance. Sacha Dinal and Jeremy Clarkson are the sofa-dodder and ten minutes after the closing credits have rolled you cannot remember a thing either of them said. Aherne would no doubt retort that this is precisely the point. The show is a vehicle for her character and the rest is incidental. Peter Waymark

- 6.00pm GMTV (1878003)**
- 9.25pm Win, Lose or Draw (1073393)
  - 9.55pm Regional News (T) (S068157)
  - 10.00pm The Time, the Place (S4745)
  - 10.30pm This Morning (T) (S3301916)
  - 12.20pm Regional News (T) (S07751)
  - 12.30pm News (T) and weather (S70138)
  - 12.55pm Wish You Were Here? (T) (S788157)
  - 1.25pm Home and Away (T) (S5501480)
  - 1.50pm Murder, She Wrote (S4421003) 2.50pm Get a Life (S303664)
  - 3.20pm News (T) (S455729)
  - 3.25pm Regional News (T) (S060670)
  - 3.30pm Rosie and Jim (S016954) 3.40pm Sim Pig (S707819) 3.50pm Sunny Bunnies (S78428)
  - 4.00pm Zzzap! (S192208) 4.15pm Junior (S283333) 4.40pm Gladiators: Train 2 Win (T) (S311883)
  - 5.10pm A Country Practice (S735933)
  - 5.40pm News (T) and weather (S79409)
  - 6.00pm Home and Away (T) (S13206)
  - 6.25pm HTV Weather (S22515)
  - 6.30pm HTV News (T) (S35)
  - 7.00pm Wheel of Fortune hosted by comedian Bradley Walsh (T) (S596)
  - 7.30pm Coronation Street: Fraser catches Liz rifling through his private papers. Judy prepares to say a final farewell to her Mum (T) (119)
  - 8.00pm The Bill: Rolling in It A City trader blames his unemployed brother-in-law when drugs are found in his Lamborghini (T) (S216)
  - 8.30pm Holding the Baby War breaks out between the doctor and his smug neighbour over whose child is more gifted. With Nick Hancock (T) (S471)
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.55pm-1.25pm A Country Practice (S788157)
  - 1.55pm Savannah (S443022)
  - 2.50pm-3.20pm Our House (S308664)
  - 5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (S259333)
  - 6.25-7.00pm Central News (S88333)
  - 10.40pm Central Weekend Live (S7128119)
  - 12.15pm Weekly World News (S3028)
  - 1.00pm Funky Bunker (S762888)
  - 1.55pm Baywatch (S502197)
  - 2.45pm Cyber Cafe (S353081)
  - 3.10pm Movie Club (S068694)
  - 3.40pm Dating the Enemy (S088248)
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.55pm-1.25pm A Country Practice (S788157)
  - 1.55pm Savannah (S443022)
  - 2.50pm-3.20pm Dogs with Dunbar (S308664)
  - 5.10pm Shortland Street (S259333)
  - 6.25-7.00pm Anglia News (S88333)
  - 10.40pm Film: Cocoon: The Return (S4392225)
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.55pm-1.25pm A Country Practice (S788157)
  - 1.55pm Savannah (S443022)
  - 2.50pm-3.20pm Dogs with Dunbar (S308664)
  - 5.10pm Shortland Street (S259333)
  - 6.25-7.00pm Anglia News (S88333)
  - 10.40pm Film: Cocoon: The Return (S4392225)
- Starts: 6.00pm Sesame Street (S6119)**
- 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (S1577)
  - 9.00pm Switched (S2033)
  - 9.30pm Yagellon (S72263)
  - 12.00pm Collectors' Lot (S4017)
  - 12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (S7799)
  - 1.00pm Shot Mithrin (S4664)
  - 1.30pm Australia Wild (S9770)
  - 2.00pm Cynhadellid y Baid Lefur (S4206)
  - 4.00pm Fifteen-to-One (S48)
  - 4.30pm Shop Till You Drop (S732)
  - 5.00pm Pump (S474)
  - 5.30pm Countdown (S12)
  - 6.00pm Newyddion (S13735)
  - 6.05pm Heno (S24312)
  - 6.35pm Jacpot (S40577)
  - 7.00pm Pobl y Cwm (S34883)
  - 7.25pm Y Sio Gelf (S83732)
  - 9.00pm Penicilliweddi: Maf — Mafeth (S385)
  - 9.30pm Newyddion (S2363)
  - 9.00pm Erotica and Erotica of the Deep (S151)
  - 10.00pm Brookside (S1886)
  - 10.30pm Here's Johnny (S20664)
  - 11.05pm The Circle Show (S29515)
  - 11.35pm TFI Friday (S48848)
  - 12.40pm Robin (S149804)
  - 12.45pm Flava (S1081)
  - 1.15pm The Buryer (S1957) Taut film noir with Dan Duryea, Jayne Mansfield and Peter Capell. A thief plans to steal a valuable necklace with the help of his gang and his half-sister, but a corrupt police officer has designs on the loot. Directed by Paul Wendkos (T) (S68807)
  - 2.55pm Nightfall (1956) Stylish thriller starring Aldo Ray, Brian Keith and Anne Bancroft. A man wrongly accused of murder goes on the run, but the real killer catches up with him. Directed by Jacques Tourneur (T) (S3901)
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- 9.30pm Spin City: The High and Mighty Michael needs a favour from a famed New York developer. With Michael J. Fox (T) (S7935)**
- 10.00pm Roseanne: The Connors find themselves out of their element when they spend the night in a hotel. As for Roseanne, she has a date with a handsome man (T) (S1886)**
- 10.30pm Here's Johnny: Johnny Vaughan presents a mix of chat, comedy and social studies. The guests include Max Clifford (S20664)**
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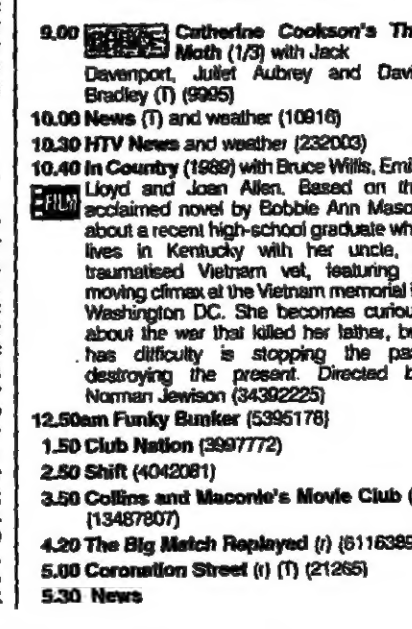
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Lee Thompson as Caroline (9.00pm)



Juliet Aubrey as Sarah (9.00pm)



Martin and Gary Kemp in The Krays (Sky Movies Gold, 10.00pm)

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**
- SKY 1**
- 6.00am Morning Glory (S6515) 9.00am Right and Wrong (S6515) 10.00am Andrew World (S6515) 11.00am Days of Our Lives (S6515) 12.00pm Catch the Wave (S6515) 1.00pm Garfield (S6515) 2.00pm Baby Jesus (S6515) 3.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 4.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 5.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 6.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 7.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 8.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 9.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 10.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 11.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 12.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 1.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 2.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 3.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 4.00pm The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (S6515) 5.00pm 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## ATHLETICS 40

Father and son  
thrown together  
by common pursuit

# SPORT

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28 1997

## CRICKET 41

Australia ready  
to stay on  
top of world



Pearce given managerial support

## Bassett leaves Palace to help Forest revival

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS a week for pulling managerial rabbits out of hats. Following hard on the heels of Blackburn Rovers' surprise appointment of Roy Hodgson came the even more startling news, yesterday, that Dave Bassett is to leave Crystal Palace to become the general manager of Nottingham Forest.

The speed of the appointment is an indication that Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman, who is part of a consortium that purchased Forest this week, immediately recognised the need for an experienced head to help to steer Stuart Pearce, the player-manager, through the murky waters of football in the FA Carling Premiership.

Scholar confirmed last night that Bassett will not initially be involved in team affairs, leaving the way clear for Pearce to continue in his present role until the end of the season. However, the strong suggestion is that Bassett will assume control when Pearce's temporary contract as player-manager expires in the summer. The former Wimbledon and Sheffield United manager is hardly the type to be content with an administrative position and is likely to assume full control, with Pearce perhaps retained as player-coach.

The Bridgeford consortium that took a controlling interest

in the club promised £16 million to spend immediately on new players and it is Pearce's lack of experience and knowledge in this area that prompted the move for Bassett. He will immediately be given the decisive influence on transfer matters and be charged with finding the players to ensure the club's Premiership survival. He has, in effect, been brought in to buy players.

When he discussed the move yesterday, Bassett hinted strongly that he will assume a wider role when Pearce's temporary contract expires. "Stuart will still select the team and conduct the coaching until the end of the season, because he has a contract until then and he wants to do that. I won't step on his toes."

"He is happy for me to come in and I wouldn't have done so if he wasn't. We've known each other for some time, although not very well. He knows he needs somebody with experience and I'll be doing my best to help."

Bassett's move comes as a surprise not only for its speed and nature, but because he turned down a move to Manchester City only recently. At the time, he said that he found the future of Crystal Palace exciting: four months on, it appears that certain differences with the Palace chairman, Ron Noades, and

family demands have forced his hand.

Bassett's wife and children still live in Sheffield and the move to Nottingham will allow him to spend more time at home. Palace wanted Bassett to stay, but he invoked a clause in his contract.

"I insisted on having a clause inserted that said I could leave if a club came in offering compensation and Ron was as good as his word," Bassett said. "I'm pleased to have left in amicable circumstances, because this is the correct decision for me in terms of my career, financially and also domestically."

Ray Houghton, the Ireland midfielder player, is the favourite to become player-coach at Palace with Steve Coppell assuming, once again, the position of general manager. Coppell returned to the club for his third spell after resigning as manager of Manchester City earlier this season, citing health reasons. He is expected to play a mainly administrative role at the club.

Bassett has signed a three-year contract and Scholar hopes his experience, especially in the transfer market, will continue the improvement that Pearce began when he took temporary charge from Frank Clark, who resigned as manager in January. Bassett can at least work from a position of strength, not simply because he has £16 million to spend.

The prospect of playing for Forest, despite their struggles at the lower end of the Premiership, seems to be as strong as ever, if the attitude of Pierre van Hooijdonk is anything to go by. Rob Jansen, the Celtic and Holland striker's agent, said yesterday that Van Hooijdonk was eager to move to the City Ground.

"Celtic were ready to sell him recently and have discussions with some clubs in England," Jansen said. "If that situation is still the same, then it would be a possibility that he would come to Forest. He would like to stay in Great Britain."



Olazabal plays his second shot to the 1st in his encouraging comeback round of 69 yesterday. Photograph: David Cannon/Allsport

## Olazabal quick to get back in the swing

FROM JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN DUBAI

IT WAS just after midday on another day of clear blue skies and bright sunshine when José María Olazabal made his way to the 1st tee at the Emirates Golf Club, in Dubai, yesterday to compete in his first competitive round of golf for 17 months.

As Sergio Gomez, his manager, and Maite, his wife, walked behind, Gomez pulled a cigar from the pocket of his shirt and plucked at the paper encircling it. "This is really an occasion," the man who has supported Olazabal, the 1994 Masters champion, through good times and bad, said. "Once the first drive is away, I shall light this Havana."

There was more to celebrate after Olazabal's 69, four strokes behind Domingo Hospital and Colin Montgomerie, the defending champion, who are the first-round leaders of the Dubai Desert Classic. To play as well as Olazabal did — he lies equal fourth — after what he has been through is most encouraging for his future and for that of European golf.

It was an afternoon of low scoring. Montgomerie, Bernhard Langer and Padraig Harrington were collectively 19 under par, with 19 birdies and one eagle between them. For Olazabal, a level-par 72 would have been a decent score and Montgomerie was loud in his praise. "For him to break 70 on a good golf course is tremendous," Montgomerie

said. "That should give him confidence." Further indication of what Olazabal achieved can be gauged from the comments of Greg Norman, who went round in 71 and described himself as "happy, it being my first competitive round for three months".

First-round scores — 40

From the top of his head to the tips of his shoes, Olazabal was recognisably the Olazabal of old, except that he wore a peaked cap that looked one size too big. His walk has always appeared slightly drunken in the way he sways from side to side, and he has always leant forward as if

heading into a strong wind. That remained the same. When he, Jamie Spence and Barry Lane had to wait to play their second shots to the 10th, Olazabal took the opportunity to sit on the end of his bag. His striking appears to have lost little of its sharpness. After pars at the first two holes, he demonstrated the skills for which he was famous before suspected rheumatoid arthritis in his right foot and a back injury caused him to stop playing competitively in September 1995.

A wild drive on the 3rd ended in a bush. Olazabal dropped out under penalty and hacked back to the fairway. He was still 180 yards away but his six-iron was struck with such accuracy that it changed into the pin. He

finished closer to the flag from 180 yards than his partners did from 20.

Fog delayed the start for 75 minutes and, as Olazabal was behind a group containing Langer, progress was slow. Yet when Olazabal, who was 31 earlier this month, might have begun to fade because of tiredness, he played better.

He birdied three of his last four holes, sinking putts of 30 feet on the 15th, 18 feet on the 16th and playing the last hole conservatively and skilfully. As darkness gathered, he hit a wedge from 90 yards to three feet for his fourth birdie of a momentous day.

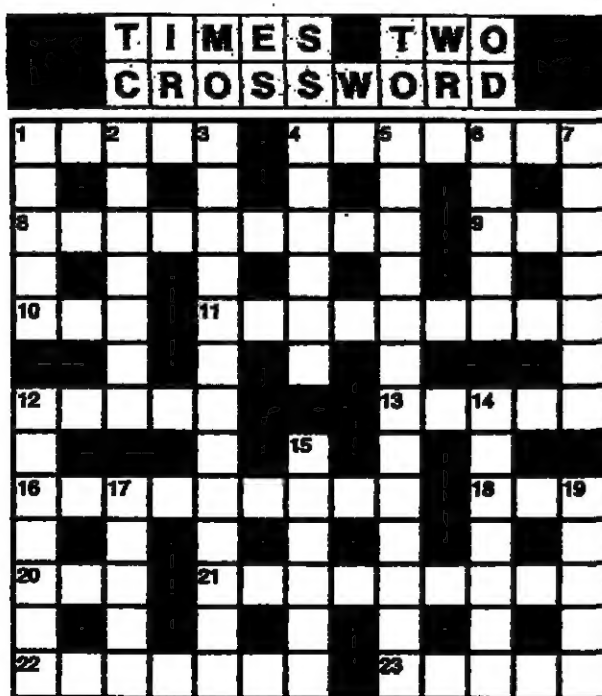
He would not reveal whether his feet were hurting at the end. Suffice to say that, for the moment, Olazabal has to take his recovery one step at a time.



Bassett: expertise

### FACTFILE

1944: Born September 4, Wembley.  
1973: Captained Watford to victory in Amateur Cup final against South Town.  
1974: Joined Wimbledon, who were then in the Southern League.  
1977: Made 25 appearances during first season as Football League club.  
1981-82: Succeeded David Glad as manager and took Wimbledon from third division into the first.  
1982: Became manager of Watford, but left shortly afterwards to take over at Sheffield United. United relegated to third division.  
1988-90: Won promotion back to the second division, then to first.  
1994: United relegated from Premier League on final day of season.  
1995: Reappointed as United manager.  
1996: Appointed as manager of Crystal Palace.  
1997: Appointed general manager of Nottingham Forest.



No 1029

### ACROSS

- 1 Impose (the unwanted one) (5)
- 4 Waterfall (7)
- 5 Unapproachable (9)
- 9 Lubricate (3)
- 10 Hair-preparation: a semi-solid (3)
- 11 An explosive: a Plot (9)
- 12 Fold, tuck (in garment) (5)
- 13 Touch of colour (5)
- 14 Got too big, old for (4,3,2)
- 15 Synagogue cupboard: place of shelter (3)
- 20 Our star (3)
- 21 Lifeless (9)
- 22 Performer of operations (7)
- 23 Precise (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Hurk dance: love affair (5)
- 2 Include: implicate (7)
- 3 1984 orthodox enforcers (Orwell) (7,6)
- 4 Chink (6)
- 5 Fail to conform (4,3,2,4)
- 6 Keep away from (5)
- 7 Make bigger (7)
- 12 Myth: winged horse (7)
- 14 US/Canada 4 ac (7)
- 15 Melody: exert severely (6)
- 17 Possessor (5)
- 19 Got down (eg to pray) (5)

The solution to 1028 will be published Wednesday, March 5

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## Premier League looks to Leaver

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

THE new chief executive of the FA Premier League is to be a barrister, Peter Leaver QC, who will assume his duties on April 3. Rick Parry, the present incumbent, will be "working alongside him for a suitable period," Parry said yesterday that, by the time Leaver takes office, the so-called "bungs inquiry" and report into financial malpractices by football clubs in the transfer market, will be done and dusted.

On the face of it, contrasts between Parry and his successor could scarcely be greater.



Leaver: barrister

Parry, the provincial accountant; Leaver, the metropolitan lawyer.

Leaver, 52, has been supporting Tottenham Hotspur since his father took him to a game against Blackburn Rovers in 1950. He has been chairman of the Bar Committee, chairman of the International Practice Committee, Recorder of the Crown Court and a Deputy High Court Judge — not to mention a Tottenham director between

1982 and 1984, during the interregnum that followed the contentious chairmanship of Irving Scholar. Most encouraging of all, perhaps, Leaver gives up his Sunday mornings to referee minor football, though he says he finds it hard to keep up with the play.

Sir John Quinton, the FA Premier League chairman, said yesterday that Leaver has been engaged on the basis of a "rolling contract", though he would not divulge the salary. Quinton heaped praise on Parry, who, in his five years of office, has kept harmony among the 20 FA Carling Premiership clubs, but who now has agreed to take a job nearer his home, at Anfield with Liverpool FC.

Leaver would not commit himself to any plan or project. He said he first wanted to take up his position and assess situations, though he is anxious to keep things on an even keel.

This may not be easy. There is the problem of the Bosman decision and the presumption that football contracts are in restraint of trade. Not mentioned was the urging of Uefa, the European governing body, that all senior leagues, including the Premiership, be cut down to 18 clubs. There is also the issue of the dreadful plight of many smaller clubs and the distortion to the fixture list created by television.

"Obviously," Leaver said, "you see things which you think should be changed. It would be ludicrous if you didn't. My experience at the Bar has taught me not to try to come to firm conclusions until I know precisely what all the issues are."

## Ashton handed brief by Ireland

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE remarkable transition in the fortunes of Brian Ashton culminated yesterday in an unprecedented six-year appointment as coach to Ireland. Two months ago, Ashton was in dispute with Bath and subsequently resigned after three successful years as coach to the English champions; now he has security of tenure until 2003, the period covering the next two World Cups.

Sporting security, of course, is subject to success on the field, but Ashton, 50 and a history teacher up to last July, could not have asked for more than appeared in the Irish Rugby Football Union's (IRFU) statement made in Dublin before Ireland left for tomorrow's five nations' championship meeting with Scotland.

Ashton himself has expressed doubts whether Ireland's standing can be improved without this kind of long-term commitment, which will involve working with provincial directors of rugby and advising on the A and under-21 teams.

"We have tremendous faith in Brian's ability and commitment and recognise that we are at a critical juncture in our efforts to maintain Ireland at the top level," Eddie Coleman, the chairman of the IRFU elections committee, said.

Ashton, who will take up his new role on April 1, will go on the development tour of New Zealand and Western Samoa in May and will be part of a three-man selection committee along with Pat Whelan, the honorary manager up to the 1999 World Cup, and a third selector yet to be named. The reduction of the selectors from

five to three is in line with what most other leading unions have already done.

Political warfare in English rugby seems imminent yet again. Agreement between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the leading clubs may be one thing; agreement within the RFU itself remains quite another and some heavy guns have been rolled out in advance of the special general meeting, called in Birmingham by the Union for March 9.

Every club affiliated to the RFU has been circulated with a letter signed by Fran Cotton, the manager of the British Isles, Danie Serfontein, the RFU president in 1992-93, and Jeff Probyn, a national

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member of the RFU committee. The letter is designed to ensure that the chairman of the union's new management board — the equivalent to Cliff Brittle, the present chairman of the executive committee — is elected by the membership and not from within the committee, and that the post of chief executive should be subject to a rigorous selection process.

Richard Hill, the Saracens flanker, will be in the England team to play France at Twickenham tomorrow. Although Hill is not yet at 100 per cent fitness, he did enough in a private training session to convince the team management that his injured ankle will allow him to take the field.

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